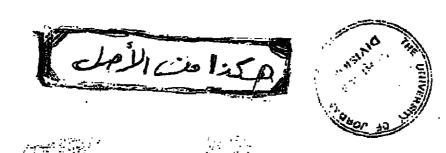
Yew York train station ceiling collanses

IEW YORK (AP) — The ceiling of a commuter train station under the vorted Trade Centre collapsed Friday afternoon, injuring dozens of a linearing and forcing the evacuation of one of the 110-storey landmark lowers, officials said. The collapse may have resulted from an explosion in the station of the Port Authority-Trans Hudson line. Two fires were burning in the station and heavy smoke billowed up from the subterranean itial reports indicated there were more than 100 people injured in the lunch-hour accident, said emergency medical service spokesman Frank McCarton. Several were apparently trapped in the rubble. "It felt ike a big boom," said Lisa Hoffman, who works at the nearby World Frinancial Centre. "The building shook, I looked out the window to see if New Jersey had disappeared." Christopher J. O'Mara, 42, an insurance of the Alth floor of the granulated towns said his building and executive on the 49th floor of the evacuated tower, said his building was being evacuated. "The hallways are filled with black smoke," he said. Even the emergency lighting is off." More than 150 firefighters were



An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تليمز يومية سياسية تمنعر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة المنحابة الأربنية والراي

Yeltsin, Clinton likely to meet in Canada

MOSCOW (R) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton are likely to hold their April 4 summit in Canada, Interfax news agency said Friday. "A high-ranking source in the Foreign Ministry revealed this information to an Interfax correspondent," the agency said. The Foreign Ministry was not immediately available for comment. Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev announced Thursday in Geneva that the two leaders would hold their first meeting on April 4 German Chancellor Helmut Kohl plans his first meeting with President Clinton on March 25-26 in Washington, a government spokesman said in Bonn, Mr. Kohl will travel to U.S. capital at the invitation of Mr. Clinton, spokesman Norbert Schaefer said.

Johnne 17 Number 5244

AMMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1993, RAMADAN 6, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirharas

_A gets new chief Jordan

MMAN (I.T.) — Palestinian ider Yasser Arafat has cointed Brigadier Mohammad idsich as commander of the lestine Liberation Army
(A) in Jordan. Brig. Qudsieh
ceeds Major-General Naim Al latib, who is being transferred.
Tunis to join the chiefs of staff. n. Khatib served as commanr of the PLA in Jordan for 14

atar exchanges reetings with Iraq

JBAI (R) — Qatari leaders changed greetings with Iraqi esident Saddam Hussein oursday, the second anniversary the end of the Gulf war. The ficial Qatari News Agency NA) said the emir, Sheikh talifa Ben Hamad Al Thani. d his son Crown Prince and efence Minister Major-General eikh Hamad received cables on President Saddam marking e start of the Holy Month of 3 madan. The two Qatari leads sent similar messages to Presint Saddam. Qatar and Oman. jich along with the other four nlf Arab states joined the U.S.d alliance which defeated Iraq. ve established some contacts th Baghdad in recent months.

:raeli lawmaker -raws gun in row

EL AVÍV (AP) — An Israeli rliament member waved a gun get his point across to a cab iver in a dispute over a parking ace, police said Friday. Legisla-- Tzahi Hanegbi of the rightag Likud Party told police he - w his pistol after taxidriver unit Golan "made threatening ives" during an argument last ek, police spokesman Shmuel n Ruby said. Mr. Hanegbi . xd a complaint Wednesday with lice accusing Mr. Golan of eatening him when the lawker told him to move from a erved space outside his party's ··· adouarters

anian opposition uries dissident

SHRAF BASE, Iraq (R) — An aq-based Iranian opposition ovement Friday buried one of members found dead in Tury and vowed revenge of the hran government. Amid outs of Allahu Akbar and calls i the overthrow of the governent of President Hashemi Rafnjani, the Mujahedeen-e-Khalo erred Ali Akbar Ghorbani at biggest base in Iraq. "Our venge will come when we uch to Tehran and topple the ıllahs' tyrannical regime," said ujahedeen spokesman Fareed laimani. Ghorbani was kidnapd in Istanbal on June 4 and his itilated body was found last

ुष्ट gyptair flight lands ंद्र ith dangling body

\GOS (AP) — An Egyptain liner landed at Lagos airport th a man's body hanging from nose bay, officials said Friday. ing Commander John Ojikutu, litary commandant at Lagos' ırtala Mohammad internationairport, said he suspected foul iy. He told reporters be was rring Egyptair planes from ading there until the airline moved the unidentified body om Nigeria. Egyptair Flight S855 landed in Lagos on Thursy from Cairo after making a p in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The eing 767 was detained for two urs while its captain, Sherif ber, was questioned about the ly found dangling at the nosehousing the front wheel of aircraft. The captain reedly claimed he was unaware se body until he was alerted in is by an Egyptair ground



TEL:698 131

Syria to convene Arab meeting on how to relaunch peace process

Christopher reports Syrian pledge of support for bid to restart talks; Palestinians say April round invitations premature

SYRIA SAID Friday it would convene a meeting of the Arab states in Damascus shortly to discuss how to relaunch the Middle East peace process and solve the crisis sparked by Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of Palestinians to

In other developments related to the peace process:
--- U.S. Secretary of State War-

ren Christopher, who ended a week-long visit to the Middle East Thursday, said he had received Syrian assurances that Damascus would support efforts to resume the stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks.

- Palestinian peace negotiators said it was too early to resume the peace talks and Israeli leaders expressed hope that Arab-Israeli peace could be

- The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which the deportations issue and the guides the Palestinian negotiators, said it was premature for the U.S. and Russia - cosponsors of the peace process to issue invitations to resume the European Community's (EC)

Combined agency dispatches peace talks in April, but American proposals to resolve the crisis over the expellees were welcome. - Jordan and Lebanon, the other parties to the peace talks,

reserved comment on prospects for the resumption of peace talks. Israeli leaders refrained from public comment before the invitations were issued, and media reports said they expected the

talks to resume April 19. A senior Israeli official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Israel was "definitely encouraged by this announcement. We are looking forward to receiving the invitations so that the (peace) process can continue."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa said in Brussels: We, as an Arab side, are going to convene a coordination meeting for the Arab side in Damascus within the coming days or weeks in order to come up with a unified Arab position vis-a-vis

resumption of the peace talks." He was speaking after meeting Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen, representing

rotating presidency, and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. He had earlier met Mr. Christ-

Mr. Sharaa said all Arab parties in the peace talks would attend the meeting in Damascus. Syria would try to take a constructive position, he said, because a solution to the question of thehundreds of Palestinians expelled by Israel was needed to enable all the parties to resume the peace talks "in a comfortable and agreeable atmosphere."

Prior to the EC-Syria meeting, Mr. Hurd told reporters it was "very important that the Americans and the Europeans should be working together on the peace

'Here we have a new American secretary of state who's done a mammoth (Mideast) tour and he's been putting new life into the peace process in the Middle East and I expect he will talk to us "I and some others are seeing

the Syrian foreign minister this The EC has said it is ready to

Mideast nations provided there is a lasting peace agreement between Israel and its neighbours.

Speaking at a news conference after a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) foreign ministers meeting Mr. Christ-opher confirmed he had met Mr. Sharaa in his Brussels hotel to discuss his invitation to Arabs and Israelis to resume peace talks in Washington in April.

"I told him the basis on which we had suggested that the meetings be reconvened in April,' said Mr. Christopher.

"Frankly I asked for his support in making sure that there was a positive response ... and he gave me assurance that his country would be helpful in that re-

The U.S.-Russian invitation to what would be the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks came after Mr. Christopher met Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Geneva Thursday.

The talks were suspended in December after Israel expelled

(Continued on page 5)

The evictees have been

stranded in their makeshift tent

camp in southeast Lebanon since

Lebanon has refused to take

the men or allow supplies to

Israel expelled them Dec. 17.

NATO allies back U.S. airdrop plan in Bosnia

Treaty Organisation (NATO) operation is the threat of anti-allies details of the U.S. plan to aircraft fire from forces on the parachute food to besieged vil- ground. minor pledges of help.

quainted session with foreign aged — not at all disappointed — ministers of the 16-nation NATO by the response." to rally support for the humanita-

Delegates offered much praise drops," but little assistance.

could be used in the operation. along. And NATOsaid its AWACS sur-

cause they have the courage to do that," said German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. Britain and France said their

nations' troops would continue escorting relief convoys by land to victims of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

the other." British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said. 'they go hand in hand."

"The one effort supplements

BRUSSELS (AP) - U.S. Secret- negative aspects. The security of ary of State Warren Christopher those actions is not assured. Friday gave the North Atlantic The main risk to an aerial

lages in Bosma but got only But Mr. Christopher, speaking inor pledges of help. to reporters after the 2½ hour Christopher used a get ac-meeting, said he was "encour-

"I did not come here to ask for their participation in the airhe said. "We would welcome other countries' participa-Italy said one of its air based tion. Some may be coming

He said Russian Foreign Minisveillance planes, already moniter Andrei Kozyrev, at a meeting toring a "no-fly" zone over Bos- Thursday in Geneva, did not rule nia, would support the airdrop. out Russian participation in the "I admire the Americans be-airdrops.

Mr. Christopher, winding up a week-long trip to the Middle East, met with the allies for the first time since becoming U.S.

secretary of state. He promised that Washington would maintain enough soldiers in Europe so that they would be "equal to the challenge of the new security environment."

Europeans fear that President Bill Clinton will make deep cuts Belgian Foreign Minister Willy in U.S. troops stationed in Claeg said the operation was ris-ky. "Everybody knows there are duce government spending."

Hamas leaders meet U.S. diplomat, European envoys

AMMAN (AP) — A senior official of the Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist Hamas faction faction organisation (PLO) strongly fundamentalist Hamas faction disclosed Friday that he met twice this week in Amman with a U.S. embassy diplomat and that earlier contacts included a number of Western ambassadors.

Mohammad Nazzal, Hamas' representative in Jordan, said he had requested meeting with U.S. Ambassador Roger Harrison, but was turned down.

Instead, he and Ibrahim Ghoshe, the group's spokesman, met twice with the embassy's political officer Eric Gaudiosi. Mr. Nazzal said.

on the matter.

Ghoshe met with the British, process, which the PLO supports. French, Italian and German ambassadors.

Hamas to secure wider involvement in Middle East politics, capitalising on the publicity it has gathered since Israel expelled some 400 suspected Muslim fundamentalists in December.

The evictees have been stranded in a frigid tent camp in southeast Lebanon, with little

deplored the meetings between Western diplomats and Hamas

"It's shocking, it's asto-nishing," exclaimed Bassam Abu Sharif, an adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, when asked about the report.

"Such American attitude cana not be constructive," he said. "It shows that the American policy towards the Middle East peace process is totally illogical."

Hamas, the acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, is U.S. Embassy spokesman Peter Kovach declined all comment Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is vehemently Earlier, Mr. Nazzal, and Mr. opposed to the Middle East peace

The United States ended a 12-year ban on contact with the The contacts pointed to a di- PLO in 1989, after Mr. Arafat plomatic offensive launched by renounced "terrorism." But a dialogue initiated with President Ronald Reagan's administration was suspended 10 months later after an abortive guerrilla raid

against Israel. PLO calls for the resumption of the direct contact have been

(Continued on page 5)

Exiles say no peace talks before end to their plight

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon ple refuses that," he said. (Agencies) — The spokesman for the nearly 400 Palestinian expellees said Friday that the stalled Middle East peace talks would not resume before their plight

"For the Arabs, a settlement tions," Gaza physician Abdul Aziz Rantisi said.

"If no solution has been found before the talks begin, we will have to ask for financial compensation," added Dr. Rantisi, without elaboration. Dr. Rantisi, 45, said the

Palestinian delegation would lose credibility if it went to the negotiations before the evictees re-"The Palestinian delegation

reach them through its army for the (expellees) issue is the basis for rejoining the negotia-responsibility. Exile appland Jordan

The expellees Thursday praised His Majesty King Hus-sein's firm stand towards the United Nations Security Council resolutions and his unwavering support for the expellees.

In a message addressed to King Hussein, the expellees praised his stand against eviction and expulsion, and hailed the position of will definitely fall if it resumes the the Jordanian government, Parnegotiations before resolving the liament and people towards the crisis because the Palestinian peo-

Abed Rabbo group calls on Hamas to join PLO ranks

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN -- The Tunis-based wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) celebrated the 24th anniversary of the group by calling on the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas to join the ranks of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) unconditionally. ditionally.

"Events of the past two months have proven that the PLO is the sole representative of all the Palestinian people. Hamas should thus join the PLO ranks today and unconditionally accept the umbrella of the PLO," said a statement sent to the Jordan Times by the DFLP organisers

Friday. As the sole representative of the Palestinian people, the "PLO should be directly involved in the

peace talks," said the statement by the group, which is headed by PLO Executive Committee member and information chief Yasser Abed Rabbo. Hamas has demanded that the

PLO offer it a minimum number of the seats on the Palestine National Council (PNC) in return for coming under the PLO umbrella.

The Tunis-based DFL? wing had been sceptical of the need to have Hamas join the PLO. But after the apparent increase in Hamas's popularity in the wake of Israel's expulsion in December of some leading Hamas activists, DFLP officials now deem it politically necessary.

The Tunis-based DFLP wing

called for a speeding-up of the peace process and called on the U.S. to reopen a dialogue with

the PLO leadership in Tunis. The DFLP wing refused to change its name after breaking away in September 1991 from the Marxist-Leninist DFLP which is based in Damascus. The Tunisbased wing is represented in the Palestinian negotiating team to the Middle East peace talks. "We urge the U.S. to reopen

the dialogue with the representa-tives of the Palestinians. There is no need for back-door dialogue any longer. Everyone knows the PLO is directing Palestinian politics at the peace table," said the

Known as the DFLP - Abed Rabbo wing among Palestinians, the group recently wing agreed to represent in the PLO the first full-fledged Palestinian party based in the occupied territories. The Palestinian Democratic

Federation, also known by the acronym FIDA, will become fully Continued on page 5)



Israeli policeman stabbed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian stabbed and wounded an Israeli riot policeman in Arab East Jerusalem Friday despite heavy security for the Holy Month of Rama-

Hundreds of paramilitary border policemen patrolled on foot and horseback, while others were posted on rooftops and the walls of the Old City in the heart of the Arab sector.

Ramadan, a month of dawn to dusk fasting and prayer, is a time for religious fervor, and police deployed extra forces to prevent possible violence. The Fridays of Ramadan are considered especially important for religious observance.

prayed at the Old City's Al Agsa border policemen. The wounded ports said.

Mosque, Islam's third holiest officer was taken to hospital. shrine, to mark the first Friday of Ramadan. In contrast to previous years.

police did not bar residents of the

occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip from coming to Al Aqsa. Army roadblocks ringed the city, gunfire, and dozens were like in the past, but just a few Arab-owned cars were stopped for identity checks. Just outside the Old City's

Damascus Gate, a 13-year-old Palestinian from the West Bank stabbed a border police officer in the back, wounding him lightly. police said.

with the nei

In the West Bank city of Heoron, hundreds of worshippers emerging from mosques stened Israeli troops, an Israeli photographer said. At least two Paicstinians were wounded by army

arrested. In the Gaza Strip village of Jabaliya, the body of 43-year-old Suleiman Shariteh was found Fnday in his car parked in an orange grove, Arab reports said. He was shot three times in the head.

Shariteh was abducted by masked men earlier this week, The wounded officer gave and shot to death Thursday night, chase for about 100 metres, firing the reports said. Shariteh was warning shots in the air, spokes- killed because he was a land man said, and the youth was broker who helped sell Arabowned land to Israelis, the re-

Violence flares in Somalia; Oakley blames media reports

MOGADISHU (Agencies) --Violence erupted in the Somali capital for a fourth day Friday after gunmen opened fire on Nigerian troops of the U.S.-led task force.

A Reuter correspondent, waiting at a military roadblock, saw shooting break out in the KM-4 area of Central Mogadishu, the same place where Nigerian, U.S. and Botswana troops fought gun-men for eight hours Thursday.

The Nigerian troops manning the checkpoint fired into the air and at one point at the crowds nearby, sending men, women and children scattering in all direc-

U.S. cobra helicopters swooped over the scene. The shooting died down by midday and an uneasy calm set-

tled over the city. There were no immediate details of injuries. The week's gunbattles are the worst since the task force of 33,000 troops from 23 nations deployed in December to end gun law and looting of food aid for the

"There was a shootout involving the Nigerians this morning but we don't have any more information at this stage," a U.S. military spokesman said. He said the shooting had ended and the area had calmed down.

The streets of Mogadishu were ventured out into the streets and markets. The United Nations advised

movement as much as possible. began reoccupying an area they "UNITAF (the U.S.-led force were driven from last year.

in Somalia) has recommended that relief personnel limit their movements to essential work areas," U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi told reporters.

Three U.S. marines and three

Nigerians were wounded in Thursday's fighting. U.S. special envoy Robert
Oakley has blamed "wildly erroneous" news reports by two organisations for helping raise

tension before the violent pro-Mr. Oakley said incorrect reports by Reuters and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) about a sneak attack Monday in Kismayu led people to believe

His statement was published Thursday in Rajo, a Somali lan-guage news sheet distributed by the U.S.-led coalition securing

foreign troops assisted the attack-

Somali. Mr. Oakley's statement was requested by a radio station controlled by Somali warlord Mohammad Farrah Aideed that said the ambassador should explain to the Somali people his view of events in a bid to calm the unrest, one of his aides said.

The four-page statement said the attack in Kismayu by supporters of warlord Mohammad Said Hersi, known as Gen. Morgan, quiet by mid-morning and people killed large numbers of innocent civilians. Officials estimated two dozen people died when several hundred Morgan supporters enforeign aid workers to limit their tered Kismayu before dawn and

Israeli helicopters attack bases of Hizbollah

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli helicopters blasted two posts of Hizbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon Friday, security

sources said. They said two helicopters fired four rockets into a building used by Hizbollah in the village of Jarjouh in Iglim Al Toufah mountainous ridge, about 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Less than two hours later, another helicopter fired one rocket into a house of a Hizbollah member in the same village. The two buildings were badly damaged but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The air strikes followed an attack by guerfillas on a position manned by Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen on the tip of Israel's self-styled "security zone."

Three SLA men were slightly

wounded when guerrillas fired anti-tank rockets at the inlitop Sojoud post, the sources said. The guerrilla band withdrew behind a cover of mortar shelling that lasted for 15 minutes.

SLA gunners, sources said, responded in kind, targeting guerrilla escape routes north of the security zone."

The attack brought the latest flareup of hostilities in South Lebanon into its third week, heaving a total of six people killed and 34 wounded on both sides of the security zone."

DR. JIHAD MASRI. FRCS

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Sanctions grind Iraqis down, even reach elite

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq - For most Iraqis, U.N. sanctions, scarcity and an annual inflation rate of 8.000 per cent have drained all pleasure from life. There is not even sugar for the national sweet

Once upon a time, before the Gulf war. Tawfik's little girl Amira would rush laughing into her father's arms when he came home from work, squirreling through his pockets for the candy

he always brought. These days, his pockets are empty. He has no sweets and

Despair grips Tawfik's small family: his wife, Amal: 6-year-old son, Adil, and Amira, who no longer asks for candy or expects

"I've nothing to give her and it hurts to see her eyes," said Tawfik, who works in a government office for about 300 dinars a month. That is \$100 at the official exchange rate, but less than \$10 in reality.

'Our life is drab," he said. "We don't laugh or picnic or have fun any more. We're too tired just surviving. We only live for the day and try not to think

Iraq, which has the greatest appetite for sweets of the Arab countries, literally has become a nation without candy and desserts because of limited sugar imports.

Candy stores and ice cream parlors have been closed by the government, along with soft-drink plants and many other factories that use sugar.

There is a black market in baklava pastries. A box of candy is one of the most appreciated gifts a foreigner can bring.

The daily hardship and sacri-

fice of individuals is surrounded by a vast programme to rebuild bridges, repair other damage wrought by allied bombing and create new industrial and irrigation projects.

President Saddam Hussein's government is believed to have spent some of its gold reserves on the work, but officials say much of the reconstruction has used materials stockpiled before the

Well-to-do Iraqis and the elite, a tiny fraction of Iraq's 18 million people, still live in relative comfort, but they, too, feel besieged.

To maintain their living stan- diabetic, desperately needs indards or raise cash so they can leave the country - many are selling heirlooms, silver tea sets, treasured wedding presents, jewelry, fur coats, carpets and antique furniture.

One family sold everything and moved to Jordan, but left their furniture in place until they were gone so no one would suspect. They told neighbours they were just taking a vacation.

The Tigris, reddish-pink with churned mud, moves sluggishly through the city. On a jetty beneath the abandoned British embassy, men fish for masgouf, a delicacy served in riverside restaurants. Like candy, masgouf is beyond the reach of most Iraqis.

or take flour to a bakery now bake at home. Children drop out of school to work. Tire repair is a new trade. Because tires cannot be im-

Women who used to buy bread

ported, people mend them with rubber patches and shoe soles, sometimes sewn on. Little medicine is available be-

cause Iraq's assets abroad have been frozen. Malnutrition and disease are serious problems among the poor.

Mustafa, a skinny 10-year-old

just walk out on their wives. Family violence is increasing, sulin, but cannot get enough bealong with prostitution and alcocause the government has limited hol abuse. supplies and his family is poor. He is one of eight children and

"Because life is dull and hard, has dropped out of school to do it's easier for men and women to odd jobs, like selling cigarettes or separate," said Hussein, who runs a small clothing store. "We date syrup a substitute for manudon't have good times together any more. We're not so close and factured candy — scrubbing old carpets or cleaning shops. we fight about things we used to on the street, or for stale bread laugh about."

He said his wife, Nadia, once known for her lively spirit, pretty clothes and well-coifed hair, "has His father, a widower, drives a taxi and the other children work let herself go. She doesn't take

care of herself anymore." Nadia, in her late 20s, now mends and alters her children's clothes and buys none for herself. She bakes her own bread and stands in food lines for hours, cries easily and snaps at her chil-

reporting lurid crimes - murder, She no longer sees friends, never gets her hair done and sometimes bites her fingernails. Because Nadia and Hussein no longer can afford birth-control pills, she worries that she may be pregnant with a child they cannot

Divorce is increasing and the "My wife's tired. I'm tired. We must worry about getting through number of marriages has declined significantly, both for economic the next days and hope the sanctions will end," Hussein said. reasons. Some impoverished men

Egypt hints at easing tension with Iraq

By Samia Nakhoul

CAIRO - There is still no question of Egypt normalising relations with Iraq but diplomats see the first signs that the hostility which dates from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 is beginning

Officials say a decision to send a senior diplomat to run Egypt's caretaker mission in Baghdad is simply aimed at improving services to the large Egyptian community there, not raising the level of contacts with the government of Saddam Hussein.

Arab diplomats agree that President Hosni Mubarak, who played a big part in the U.S-led coalition that drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in 1991, will not restore normal relations while President Saddam is in power.

But they report that Egypt is increasingly concerned Iraq's weakness is allowing the radical Islamic government in Iran to reassert its influence in the Gulf and elsewhere in the Middle East.

"All we did is decide to send a senior diplomat to look after the mission there ...any restoration of relations between Egypt and Iraq will not include Saddam Hussein," an Egyptian official

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa last week denied a report that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz would visit Cairo.

But Egypt's main newspap-ers, which follow government guidelines, have refrained recently from attacking Iraq. They strongly condemned the U.S.-led alliance when its warplanes struck at targets in Iraq in January.

"Definitely there will not be resumption of diplomatic relations on high levels, but definitely there is a warming up in relations because of Iran ...tension between Iraq and Egypt is melting away slowly," one Arab diplomat

"Egypt has a strategic outlook and decision. It has an interest in a strategic balance of power in the Gulf. Egypt sees Iraq as the only stumbling block against Iran in the Guif.

"If Iraq is fragmented, the effects would be damaging to Egypt and to all the neighbouring states ...if Iraq is weakened further, Iran will get stronger," the diplomat

The Egyptian decision to send a senior diplomat to Baghdad follows an attempt by the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yasser Arafat, to mediate. He brought a message from President Saddam to Mr. Mubarak this month offering reconciliation and di-

Mr. Mubarak remains deeply suspicious of President Saddam, whom he repeatedly accused of stabbing him in the back when Egypt was trying to mediate between Iraq and Kuwait before the invasion.

"The experiences of the near past tauight us not to take such matters lightly ...we should have a deep and sound evaluation," Mubarak said after hearing Mr. Arafat's message, "Such thoughtful thinking will spare Egypt from taking any hasty act that could harm its in-

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Syria rejects EC aid, human rights link

BRUSSELS (R) - Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa Thursday rejected any link between his country's human rights record and financial aid from the European Community (EC), European Commission sources said. They said European External Political Affairs Commissioner Hans van den Brock told Mr. Sharaa he hoped the European Parliament next month would unblock financial aid to Syria worth 158 million ECUs (\$186-million). The elected assembly has so far prevented the money. being sent because of alleged human rights abuses. Mr. Van den Brock told Mr. Sharaa there had been positive developments in Syria's human rights record but further improvements were needed. The sources quoted Mr. Van den Broek as saying Syria still held political prisoners and some were detained without being charged and were denied contacts with their families. The sources said Mr. Sharaa rejected any link between EC aid and Syria's internal. affairs. He also said the community should apply equal standards when examining the human rights situation in different countries.

Mr. Van den Broek, appearing earlier before the parliament's foreign affairs and security committee, said Syria had an important role in Middle East peace diplomacy but withholding the aid could lead to its further isolation.

French police search Iranian TV office

PARIS (R) - French police have searched the Paris offices of the Iranian radio and television network (IRIB) in connection with the 1991 killing of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar, IRIB officials said Thursday. French officials could not immediately confirm the operation which IRIB said took place late Wednesday. A statement from the network said: "French police suspicions about someone once linked to IRIB, long before the Bakhtiar affair, should not be held against this office today." It was referring to Massoud Hendi, who was IRIB's Paris correspondent in 1984 and is said by French police to be a great nephew of Iran's late revolutionary leader Ayatoliah Ruhollah Khomeini. Hendi is one of four Iranians held in French prisons pending trial in connection with Bakhtiar's murder. Bakhtiar was killed in his villa near Paris in August 1991.

Libya to move embassies to Qadhafi's birthplace

TUNIS (R) - Libya has told foreign embassies it plans to move them from Tripoli to leader Muammar Qadhafi's birthplace on the Gulf of Sirte, diplomats in the Libyan capital said Friday. The Foreign Relations Bureau (foreign ministry) sent us a note asking us to let them know our needs regarding offices and housing in view of a transfer to Ras Lanuf," a European diplomat told Reuters. The diplomats said the government had not yet set a date for the move to Ras Lanuf, Colonel Qadhafi's birthplace 600 kilometres east of Tripoli. Libyans believe Col. Qadhafi aims to make his home region in the Gulf of Sirte into the capital and economic centre of the country. The government's weekly meetings take place in the town of Sirte, 200 kilometres west of Ras Lanuf. Ras Lanuf is one of Libya's main oil terminals and a centre for the petrochemical industry.

First woman in Cyprus cabinet for 23 years

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus named its first woman cabinet minister for 23 years Thursday. Clairi Angelidou, a . headmistress-turnedmember of parliament, was appointed education minister in the 11-member Greek-Cypriot cabinet of President-elect Glascos Clerides. The new foreign minister will be businessman Alecos Michaelides, a former president of the Cypriot parliament and vice-president of Mr. Clerides' centre-right party Democratic Rally, the largest on the island. Mr. Clerides and his new government will be sworn in Sunday.

Delors in Rabat to discuss new EC deal

RABAT (R) — European Commission President Jacques Delors is visiting Rabat for talks with King Hassan and government leaders on a new partnership agreement between Morocco and the European Community (EC). Last December the EC adopted a draft mandate to negotiate a partnership agreement with Morocco involving permanent political dialogue, economic cooperation, financial aid and progressive moves towards a free trade zone. The negotiation mandate should be finalised later this year. "I am very glad to take the opportunity to meet His Majesty King Hassan ...and discuss with (the Moroccan) government the main problems we have in common," Mr. Delors told reporters on arrival in Rabat Thursday. A senior EC official said he would discuss the EC's relations with Morocco and meet business leaders during his official three-day visit. The EC granted Morocco a four-year financial aid package worth a total 498 million ECUs (\$590 million) in December. The EC is by far Morocco's largest trading partner, accounting for \$3.65 billion in imports and \$2.55 billion in exports in 1992. Morocco also signed a four-year fisheries accord with the EC last year under which it stands to get 468 million ECUs (\$556 million) in compensation for allowing EC fishing vessels to continue fishing in Moroccan

2 pro-Kurdish men found dead in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) - A body believed to be that of a Kurdish politician missing for a month has been found in southeastern Turkey, local journalists said Friday. They said a mutilated corpse found at a riverside in Tunceli province was identified by his family from his clothes as that of Cemal Akar, a Kurdish party official in Elazig province. Mr. Akar, local leader of the minor Ozdep (Freedom and Democracy Party) in Erzincan province, had been missing since Jan. 25. Journalists in Batman said 48-year-old pharmacist Ahmet Arkin also was found dead near a village Friday after disappearing on his way home Thursday evening. He was a member of the People's Labour Party, a Kurdish group in parliament. The latest deaths bring the number of the so-called mystery killings in the tense southeast to 43 this year. The region has been racked by a violent separatist Kurdish insurgency waged since 1984 by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and an equally relentless fight by security forces. About 450 such killings in 1992 have thrown a blanket of fear and suspicion on the region, with pressure mounting on the government to take more effective measures.

Proposed value of downtown Beirut property causes stir

BEIRUT (AP) - An assessment of property value in war-damaged downtown Beirut caused an uproar Friday among owners and tenants, who called a meeting to

protest against the move. The Committee of Right and Property Holders in Downtown Beirut, which represents tenants and owners, urged the 150,000 people affected to contact its controversial plan to reconstruct the capital's old sector.

An initial assessment, released by a government sponsored committee Thursday, set the average price for one square metre in downtown Beirut at \$1,400.

The leftist newspaper Al Safir, in its main story, said the proposed estimate was in fact "one third of the real value of most property and rights" in downtown Beirut, which took the brunt of the 1975-1990 civil war.

Real estimate in downtown Cairo costs between \$3,000 and \$4,000 a square metre and in up for commercial property, although obviously those cities have not been devastated by civil

The Beirut estimate was a cru-

cial step in setting up the real estimate company, which will carry out the reconstruction of 662,700 square metres down-

Owners of property and rights would be given shares in the developed property equal to the value of their assessed rights.

for the private sector to shoulder offices to organise against a responsibility for rebuilding the commercial district did not draw a clear line between property owners and right holders. That left the door open for conflicts among tenants and between

The secretary-general of the founding authority for the real estate company, Nasser Al Sharmaa, said the firm was not expected to start apportioning shares before the summer of 1993, after the release of the final assessment of property prices in downtown Beirut.

The final assessment would follow appeals by owners of rights and property.

owners would not be able to appeal the initial assessment because "it only covered the proposed price for real estate and did not refer to rights of tenants."

However, a 1991 law providing tenants and owners.

> A Kuwaiti holds up an American flag during celebrations marking the end of Iraqi occupation two years ago (AFP photo)

Sometimes he begs for money

and leftovers from foodstalls.

or beg.
What little the family earns

helps to buy insulin, but Mustafa

has had to reduce his dosage so

Crime is rampant in Baghdad.

especially theft and car hijacking.

For the first time, the press is

rape and mutilation - usually

linked to robbery, sometimes

One of the most significant

changes is the erosion of personal

relationships between husbands

and wives, among brothers,

among friends.

with whole families as victims.

the medicine will last longer.

Foreigners killed Saudi aides, Thai minister says

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's interior minister blamed foreigners Friday for the murder of four Saudi Árabian diplomats in 1989 and 1990, but said a Thai policeman was responsible for the related disappearance of a Saudi

businessman. "The (Interior Ministry) committee has scrutinised the evidence and believes that the causes and motivation of the cases stem from religious conflict in which the persons who took the action are foreigners," General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh said in a prepared statement at a

He did not say what country the foreigners came from. But an interior ministry source who asked not to be named told Reuters Iranians carried out the killings in 1989 and 1990.

Investigations showed the gunmen arrived in Bangkok three days before the 1990 assassinations and that the guns used were of a type common in the Middle Fast, the source said.

Saudi Arabia responded to the deaths by recalling its ambassador and refusing to issue new visas to Thai workers. Some

140,000 Thais were working it the kingdom before Iraq's inva-sion of Kuwait in August 1990, with 50,000 there in May 1991. Days after the 1990 killings

prominent Saudi Arabian businessman Mohammad Al Ruwaili, who was closely related to the Saudi royal family, disappeared and is presumed dead. It is alleged he was taken from his home by police for questioning.

"It is found that the crime was committed by the police officer who was involved with the investigation of the case of the assassination of the Saudi embassy officials, police Lieutenant-Colonel Somkid Bonthanom, the statement said.

"There is sufficient evidence to take action against ...Somkid who is now accused of assassinating others and will be brought up to juridicial procedure," Gen.

The interior minister said Riyadh would be satisfied with the findings of his committee of inquiry, although another con-troversial case over the theft of iewellery from a palace in Riyadh remained unresolved.

Kuwaiti women activists press for vote

activists are still waiting for the vote two years after the emirate's Gulf war liberation spurred their

hopes of reform. Male opposition to an expanded franchise persists despite the role women played in the underground resistance to Irag's seven-month occupation, the

"Under occupation Kuwaiti men and women worked together against the occupying forces and the occupying forces tortured and arrested Kuwaiti citizens irrespective of their sex." businesswoman Najat Sultan told

"Why can't we close ranks and work together now? You find women at all levels in the ministries and this (the vote) is the only area from which we are isolated, she added. The debate over women's suf-

frage often bogs down in law. Proponents cite article 29 of the constitution which states that all men and women are equal in the eyes of the constitution. Opponents cite article two of the 1962 election law which says only men over the age 21 can vote. During the war, the emir. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al

Alternan 35 per cent. Agaba 24 per

USEFUL TELEPHONE

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KUWAIT (R) -- Kuwaiti women Sabah, said he would consider giving Kuwaiti women the right to vote, although he added the issue required time.

The debate revived when the country's lively parliamentary tradition was restored in October after a six-year break. All-male elections produced a 50-seat, alimale assembly dominated by government critics.

But since the war senior government officials have proposed studying only whether to grant more Kuwaiti males the right to vote - eligible voters count for only 15 per cent of the total number of 600,000 Kuwaiti

"The promise that women will be granted their political rights must be fulfilled, because Kuwaiti women performed such heroic roles during the invasion and offered martyrs from among their ranks." said Awatif Al Ma-

Ms. Majid, a Red Crescent society worker, helped to channel food and medicine to resistance fighters during the occupation.

The level of education between Kuwaiti men and women is the same, so why are most men

afraid to compete with us?"

asked lawyer Badriya Al Awadi.

Their comments were carried in a special issue on women's rights published by the Englishlanguage Arab Times to mark Friday's second anniversary of the liberation.

Support for the women activists came this week from new U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who said on a brief visit that he would like to see votes extended to women. Kuwaiti women already have a degree of freedom rare in neigh-

bouring Saudi Arabia. Female

drivers in smart cars and fashion-

able Western clothes are a regular sight. Unlike in some other Gulf states, Kuwaiti women hold senior government posts and vote in banking and corporate elec-

Some women activists would like to stand for parliament as well, but Islamists among them think this is going too far.
Souad Jahrallah, head of the women's committee of the Social

Reformation Society, said that, of the 60 per cent of Kuwaiti women who wore the Islamic veil, a majority wanted the vote but only a minority wanted the right to stand for parliament.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

	RAMME TWO
[8:00	Les Aventures de L'espace
18:30	Envoyé Spécial
19:08	News in French
19:15	Fenetre sur
	News in Hebrew
	News in Arabic
20-30	
	nerica's Funziest Home Videos
	Perspectives
21-10	Science Workshop
77-86	News in English
22.26	

PRAYER TIMES

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11:49	Dhu
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	CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Jeseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annusciation De ta Salle Church Tcl. 661757

Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541. Amplican Church Tcl. 630851, Tcl. 628543, Catholic Church Tel. 771331. an Orthodox Church Tel. St. Ephratia Church Tel. 771751. 682208. Evangelical Latheran Church Tcl: 824328.

Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel.675691. WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of

showers of rain. Winds will be light and variable. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm, Min./Max. teme

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Aqaba 31, Humidity readings:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN:

Dr. Akram Al Momani

Dr. Ahmad Khamis Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad Br. Fakhri Taych It will be warm and partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered Al Asen Narroukh pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade
Blood Bank
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police
Public Security Department
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television
MINN I CHARLEN

Radio Jordan Water Authority

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Zarga National Hospital Ibu Sina Hospital Al Hikma Modern Hospital 774[]] Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615 Electric Power

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amp 644281/6
Akilch Maternity, J. Amg 642441/2
Jabal Azuman Materoity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman
Mathas, J. Amman
Shracisant Rosnital 660131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muzsher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775)11/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Oucen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZAROA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Princess Basma Hospital ... Greek Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)275555

FOR THE TRAVELLER INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

lordanien (RI) information (ment at the Queen Alia Intern port Tel. (08)53200-5, where it uld always be verified. ARTIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) . Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)

89:15	Cairo, Aqaba (R	,
69:30	New Delhi (R	
85-44	Karachi, Dubai (R	
10:15	Beiral (R	,
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Other Flights (Terminal 2)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

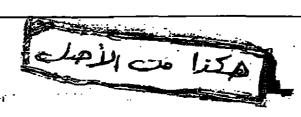
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MARKET PRICES

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

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rides prayers at Al Faul Ibn Abbas Mosque in is eastern Amman. Following the prayer. rince Hassau toured Russelfah markets where he enet with citizens, inspected their conditions and istened to their requests and comments. The Prince

trations to coordinate with the Ministry of Awgaf to establish a link between sermons and religions ons on the one hand and people's daily needs

Potential for cooperation with slamic republics 'tremendous', ays Jordanian team on return rom their 5-state tour

By Ella Nasraliah

Tordan Times Staff Reporter MMAN — The Jordanian degation, headed by Chief Cham-irlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, at toured the five Islamic re-ablics of the former Soviet Unn this month, is optimistic abat future cooperation between ese republics and Jordan in conomic, technical, industrial nd other fields.

Khaldoun Abu Hassan, memer of the delegation who rerned to Amman Feb. 20, told e Jordan Times Friday that the income of the visit was excellent nd the ideas put to the leaders nd the business communities in e five countries were well re-

On the tour the delegation had e opportunity to talk to minisrs, leaders of industrial and onomic sectors and prominent dividuals about various fields of operation, Mr. Abu Hassan

- He added that the delegation ttlined Jordan's achievements "d explored fields of coopera-... in such as launching joint ven-

Mr. Abu Hassan, who is the r of ladustry, said "we have vited officials and businessmen ··· om the five countries to visit the ingdom and familiarise themlves with the achievements realed in industry, agriculture and her sectors; and the leaders of ese countries have promised to ly the visits to Jordan possibly

within the coming few months." ness councils in each of the Islamic countries to supervise economic activities with Jordan was eagerly welcomed because such councils, said Mr. Abu Hassan, would be in charge of organising trade and industrial exhibitions to promote the sale of national pro-

"The five Islamic countries we visited are rich in minerals and agriculture, but their industry is now outdated and most of their economies are still linked with the Russian economy, although they are trying to disengage aselves from such linkage, Mr. Abu Hassan said. He add-d that of these, perhaps Uzbekistan has already succeeded in embarking on a market economy, while the others are striving hard to

achieve that point.
The Jordanian delegation was careful to note that in view of its central geographical location in the Middle East, and in light of its developed business and service sectors, like finance, banking and insurance, the Kingdom is in a position to help and cooperate closely with the Islamic states, Mr. Åbu Hassan said.

"Although the emphasis was countries, we also had talks with leaders in Russia on such matters as cooperating in banking and business in general; but the political situation is not yet clear as the country is struggling to adopt a market economy," Mr. Abu

Hassan explained. The delegation visited Uzbe-

kistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhistan, and documents for the establishment of diplomatic relations with Jordan were signed in each re-

According to Mr. Abu Hassan, the leaders of these five countries appreciate the role and the policies of His Majesty King Hussein and regard with deep respect the moderate policies of the Kingdom and its role in religious

King Hussein met the Jordanian delegation at the Royal Court Thursday in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court Khaled Al Karaki and Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber to discuss the outcome of the tour.

The King praised the delegation's effort, describing it as opening a new path for cooperation with the Islamic republics.

Urging the delegation and the government to pursue bridges of understanding and confidence with the Islamic republics, King Hussein said scopes of cooperation are numerous and Jordan ought to help the new republics

identity.
He called on the government to form follow-up teams to achieve

that goal. The delegation members all described their visits as extremely

successful, noting that potential

for cooperation in many fields is

Ministry conducts studies on constructing two dams

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is conducting feasibility studies on the construction of two dams one at Waleh and the other at Mujib south of Amman — which together would collect up to 20 million cubic metres (mcm) of

A spokesman for the ministry said tender documents will be ready once the studies have been completed in the coming months. The ministry has already

rain water annually.

announced a tender for the construction of Al Tannour Dam in Wadi Al Hassan in southern Jordan. The proposed dam will have a capacity of 12 mcm.

He said a tender was recently

announced to build a dam at Wadi Shueib in the central Jordan Valley to store up to three mem of rain water. Designs have been prepared

for the three earth dams in the north centre and south of the country, the spokesman said, adding that these dams will be constructed similarly to the country's 12 other dams which were built in the badia regions and which have a total storage capacity of 20 mcm.

To meet the growing needs for water in the Irbid and Mafrag governorates, the ministry will soon announce tenders for the replacement of 600 kilometres of

the old water network. He said work on these projects is not expected to start before the first quarter of 1994.

3 suspects held in Jabal Amman attack

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Police have announced the arrest of three suspects in at least three attacks on shops in Amman this month.

It was not known whether the three were also suspected of involvement in a series of attacks in the capital and suburbs since mid-September, but it was believed that the arrests could prove to be a major breakthrough in the investigations.

Brigadier-General Abdullah Habahbeh, chief of police in Amman, said Thursday the arrests came after an attempted robbery of a supermarket in the First Circle area of Jabal Amman Monday evening.

The owner of the store, Mohammad Mashaal, was stabbed in the neck by one assailant when he was grappling with another, but the injury was not

Brig. Habahbeh, in an interview with Jordan Television, did not reveal the identity of the

suspects, but said they had confessed to three attacks: A Feb. 15 robbery at a Jabal Amman pharmacy in which they netted JD 110, a Feb. 17 robbery at an Umm Uthaina bookstore in which they got JD 12 and Monday's foiled attempt at Mashaal

nermarket No violence except threats with a weapon was involved in the first two incidents, sources said.

The suspects, described only as 'Arab nationals," fled the scene after Monday's aborted supermarket robbery, and police mounted an unprecedented manhunt in the area which lasted more than 36 hours.

Sources said two of the three were detained after a raid in a house in an area popularly known as "Egyptians' street" in Jabal Amman, and the third was arrested in light of information provided by the two.

According to the police statement, the suspects have criminal

There was no immediate indication whether the three were

By a Jordan Times . Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordanian deposi-

Credit and Commerce Interna-

tional (BCCI) in London have rejected an offer by the bank's

owners in Abu Dhabi to pay them

35 per cent of their deposits and

are now seeking to enlist interna-

tional support for their bid to

Sources close to the depositors

said the offer of a 35 per cent payoff in full settlement of the

deposits was not realistic and

argued that the owners of the

bank, which was sequestered by

European monetary authorities

in July 1991, were capable of

According to the sources, the total amount involved is around

\$235 million, the bulk of them in

accounts with BCCI branches in

One of the sources said that

more than half of the depositors

were inclined to accept the partial

payoff, but the rest were resist-

ing, arguing that depositors in some of the European as well as

Middle Eastern countries were

paid in full by the owners - the

secure full payment.

paying in full.

London.

ticularly the series of ill-famous

attacks since mid-September. But the pointed absence of any reference to these incidents in the police statement suggested that the authorities were opting to continue secret investigations.

"Police are hoping that interrogation of the three would yield information on the earlier attacks," said one source.

At least nine attacks with common features of physical assault have occurred since Sept. 13. At least two victims died and others suffered serious injuries. The last attack was two weeks

ago, at a bookshop in the Taborbour area of northeast Amman. Early reports said police investigations had found that a blunt instrument — most probably a medium-sized hammer — was used in most attacks, and hence the assailant(s) was nicknamed by the media as "Abu Shakoush (hammerman)."

In an interview with Jordan Television last week, Major-General Fadel Ali Fheid revealed

Jordanian depositors reject 35%

offer from BCCI owners in Abu Dhabi

Committee demands full payment of said \$235m involved

that a hammer was used only in one of the attacks and that forensic tests indicated that other domestic and professional

Despite the otherwise common features in the incidents, the police chief said, the term "Abu Shakoush" was totally unfounded. He criticised the media for "sensationalising" the news and creating panic among the public.

Gen. Pheid said police had come across significant clues in their investigations, but were not in a position to reveal them lest the criminals benefit from such

Police sources have said that the possibility remained open that more than one group or person, as well as copycat criminals, could be involved in the

A main theme in last week's Jordan Television interview with Gen. Fheid was the role of the media in reporting crimes.

Shihan weekly, maintained that it was the media's duty to present the facts as they are to the outling tools" were used in the other and said police should release. related information to the media

Gen. Fheid said police were dutybound to maintain silence on criminal investigations until desinite facts were established and suspects were arrested, since any immature disclosures could namper their work and negatively

affect the success of their efforts. In his public comments, Gen. Fheid has repeatedly reminded the Jordanian public that the Kingdom's security forces have a record of solving some of most difficult cases.

"It is only a matter of time before the so-called 'Abu Shakoush' or 'Abu Mismar' 'nailman) cases would be solved." he commented, taking a jab at the media for their handling of the

In the meantime, the police chief advised the public not to

AARDO sets up regional office in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat and Secretary General of the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AAR-DO). Ahmad Khalil Thursday signed an agreement organising the work of the AARDO's Amman-based regional office for the Middle East.

The agreement defines the duties and responsibilities of the office and the commitments of

Under the agreement, Jordan can benefit from the AARDO's projects in the area of integrated

rural development. The regional office in Amman will make the necessary contacts with AARDO's headquarters to ensure the participation of Jordanians in training courses and seminars held by the organisation

and its scholarship programme.

The organisation's Amman office will be headed by Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Secretary General Asem Ghosheh.

family of Sheikh Zayed Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and absolute ruler of the Emirate of Abu

tors with the collapsed Bank of "They (Jordanian depositors) are arguing that their counter-parts in France, Spain and other European countries, Yemen and Oman in the Middle East and several countries in the Far East have been paid in full," said one of the sources.

Their approach is also based on the argument that the ruling family of Abu Dhabi is wealthy enough to return all their de-posits," the source added. Other sources said those reject-

ing the offer represented only 10 per cent of the depositors. ...There will not be any solu-

tion... except through the return in full of our deposits and rights registered with the bank," said an advertisement published in the local press by a committee of the denositors last week after a meeting with the representatives of the

'We... declare that all proposed plans and methods used to conceal the truth will not make us give up our claims for our full rights," it said. "...the reasons

that prompted us to bank (with BCCI) were confidence and belief that the owners of the bank were honourable... wealthy... (and) responsible people who will not do us harm.'

"What we hear and see, however, of the people responsible for the liquidation of the bank is so regretful and disgusting after our money was plundered through the latest and most modern means for money management in the financial capitals of the world," it added.

We appeal to all the responsible governments and organisations to stand by us. We will not give in on our rights...," it pledged. According to the sources, the

announcement by the depositors came after European courts rejected their appeal for full payment of their deposits with BCCI. which is being liquidated by a tribunal appointed by the monetary authorities of Luxembourg, where the bank was based.

The multi-billion dollar collapse of BCCI came after several years of scandals implicating the bank in money-laundering operations and shortchanging governments and depositors. The U.S.

government has initiated a series of cases against former BCC! officials, including its founders.

Many depositors have already received up to \$15,000 under a deposit-guarantee scheme in force in London. But, according to the sources, many Jordanian depositors had hundreds of thousands in foreign currency held in individual accounts with BCCI London.

The dispute is independent of the operations that BCCI had in Jordan until July 1991, when the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) took over the bank simultaneous with a similar actions by the Bank of England, the Luxembourg monetary authorities and others in Europe.

Depositors with BCCl Jordan did not lose any money since ail foreign currency holdings of BCCI Jordan had been brought under the control of the C3J several months before the takeover

The BCCI branches, along with their commercial licences, were sold to a Jordanian institution, the Business Bank, which is now running them as Jordanian banks totally independent of any

Jordan, Australia to build railways CANBERRA (Petra) — Minister construct sheep slaughter houses. two sides agreed on a number of Industry and Trade Abdullah Dr. Ensour, who is heading the measures designed to promote

Ensour, who is in Canberra to discuss promoting further economic and trade cooperation between Jordan and Australia, said the meetings thus far have brought about an agreement by both sides whereby Australia will participate in several infrastructure projects in Jordan and help the Kingdom to lay railways and

Jordanian team to the talks with their Australian counterparts, said Jordan was trying to benefit from Australia's experiments in processing dairy products and in the production of cereals, adding that Jordan proposed to the Australian team the idea of launching joint ventures, According to the minister, the

trade. He said Australia promised to facilitate Jordan's import Australian fresh meat. Heading the Australian team, Minister of Foreign Trade Gareth Evans said trade between the two

countries rose from \$6.2 million in 1990 to \$27.2 million in 1992. Jordan exports phosphate to Australia.

units on the block AMMAN (Petra) - Next month, Hiyasat,

the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) will distribute the housing units of the Batrawi Housing Estate in Zarqa governorate to low income groups, according to an announcement released Friday by Department Director Yousef

The 342 new units are of various sizes and cost between JD 11.000 and JD 17.000 each. Mr. Hiyasat explained that these housing units were originally built for government entployees, but some will be sold to the public as well.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF Crown Prince condoles Al Khreisha family feasibility

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday delegated his advisor Mohammad Njadat to convey his condolences to Al Khreisha family over the death of Zeid Mohammad Al Khreisha. New coins to be issued

CBJ announced that the coins will be of the 10,5, and 2.5 piasters denominations, issued in accordance with the bank's 1992 system No. 28. The new coins will be used in the local market along with the old ones, the CBJ said. On one side of the coins will be a profile photo of His Majesty King Hussein, with the phrase "Al Hussein Ben Talal, the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" written in Arabic. On the other side there will be the

denomination written in Arabic and English, the year of issuance

AMMAN (Petra) — New coins will be put into circulation by the Central Bank of Jordan (JBJ) as of Monday, March 1, 1992. The

and the phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in English. JNRCS begins assistance distribution

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) has begun distributing in-kind assistance to needy families in various parts of the Kingdom. The assistance includes sugar, rice, flour, fat and clothing. The JNRCS recently distributed gifts, clothing and toys to children attending Al Amal School for the Deaf and Mute in Quwaismah.

WHAT'S GOING ON

ic following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and e daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed ne and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Zurayk — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jahal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 2.m. 4 p.m.)

Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Mohammad Fakher at Saladna Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Mohammad Fradi and aber Mejbel at Alia Art Gallery.

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Don't corner the Palestinians

THE DECISION made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his Russian counterpart Andre Kozyrev to go ahead and extend invitations to the Arab and Israeli parties to attend the next round of peace talks in Washington in April suggests that Mr. Christopher's visit to the Middle East was, relatively speaking, successful.

The fact that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin did not endorse Mr. Christopher's proposals over the expulsion of 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon does not seem to taper American optimism over the participation of all the parties in the 10th round of the peace negotiations. This could be explained by the hypothesis that Mr. Rabin's reluctance to accept the new U.S. ideas on the Palestinian exiles may have been motivated by Israeli domestic considerations. Israel's Labourled government obviously does not want to appear as having buckled under U.S. pressure over an issue that has caused it a lot of embarrassment.

The fact that Mr. Rabin and his government are telling their American allies that they are ready to concentrate on negotiating a deal with Syria suggests that the Israelis want to put more pressure on the Palestinians to accept whatever being offered by the Labour government and sanctioned by the U.S.

Should this Israeli tactic of a Camp-David-like accord with Syria materialise, it will push Palestinian radicalism to its limits and will be a prescription for a new era of conflict and chaos in the region. While Mr. Rabin's predecessor, Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir, intended to go on negotiating with the Palestinians for a decade while changing reality on the ground, Mr. Rabin seems to be intent or pursuing the same ends but with different means.

Nevertheless, should American efforts to bring all the parties back to the negotiating table bear fruit, the thrust of the U.S. "full involvement" should focus on advancing the process on all tracks, especially on the Palestinian-Israeli track where the core of the Arab-Israeli dispute lies. It has become a foregone conclusion that unless the Palestinian issue is resolved once and for ever, and for the satisfaction of the Palestinians' national aspirations, peace in the Middle East will not be attained. This is why Mr. Rabin and his government should work for an early return of the exiles and an easing of the harsh conditions that Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza are subjected to. Mr. Rabin himself needs to take the initiative and show goodwill and he will find the Palestinians ready to sit and talk peace.

Arabic Press Commentaries

AL RA'I daily Friday criticised the United States continued drive to starve the Iraqi people and to condone Israel's atrocities in the occupied Arab lands. It said that dropping food to the people of Bosnia Herzegovina can by no means improve U.S. mage because its policies are based on aggression and its history abounds with evidence about American forces making aggression acts against people in Asia, Africa and Latin America. While allowing the Israelis to kill Palestinians fighting for their freedom and maintaining sanctions on Iraqi women and children, the United States claims to be striving to attain peace in the Middle East and continues to invite the Arabs to the negotiating table, said the daily. With a deteriorating economy at home, the United States cannot be in a position to police the world justly and fairly, and with its aggressive attitude towards other nations, it is only bound to win the hatred of other nations, the paper said. The policies adopted by the successive U.S. administration do not reflect wisdom at all, neither do they show that those in power realise that their actions cannot help establish peace and stability in the world, the paper said. To succeed, the United States should not only care about its trade agreements with Japan and Europe, or direct its attention towards looting the oil wealth of the Arab countries, but rather, said the paper, it should recognise the rights of other nations to freedom and real peace and security. The paper said that the current siege on Iraq could cause suffering to the Iraqis but can by no means win the United States any glory. A columnist in Al Ra'i daily commented on the ongoing charity campaign spearheaded by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma. The charity campaign is aimed at raising funds to finance projects for the needy and to collect donations for the poor families of Jordan and there many, said Nazih. The writer said that those who are wealthy and able to extend a helping hand more than others are expected to give more, in line with the teachings of religion. This is a noble mission being implemented by the Queen Alia Fund and one that requires support and active backing by all Jordanians, especially during the month of Ramadan, said the writer. Indeed, it is up to the Jordanian people to see this campaign succeed because the Queen Alia Fund is only a coordinator and organiser of the campaign, arranging for the domitions to reach the targetted needy people, continued the writer. He said that this campaign is a trust and a responsibility that should be shouldered by all those who are in a position to extend a helping hand to the needy in our community. Aiming to relieve a noble mission, this campaign relies squarely on the noble attitude and generosity of the Jordanian family, said the write. He said that the campaign serves as a testing ground to determine the Jordanian society's readiness and capability to

enhance social solidarity among their members.

The transitional politics of human rights

Following is an excerpt from an address delivered by Nobel Prize winner Wole Soylaka to the Asso-ciation of Nigerian Authors at the end of 1992. Since the delivery of the address, Nigerian presidential elections were postponed until June this year.

THE NEWS is not notably encouraging. The news is, to be candid, a little disheartening. At the last gathering of writers on our own soil at which I was present - the International Conference on African Literature in May 1988 — I made a call to all African dictatorships to set a date, well before the end of this century, to terminate their existence and restore the right of self-determination to our people. í also called upon my fellow writers to utilise all their skills to bring about this desired sociopolitical condition for the African polity. Those summonses re-ceived a formal boost from the then president of the Organisa-tion of African Unity, General Ibrahim Babangida, at the annual conference of that organisation in June 1991 in Abuja. It was a speech which was quite unpre-cedented in the gatherings of that mutual admiration club of Afri-

We know that a democratic order is, by itself, no cast-iron narantee for the application of fundamental human rights in any society. It is even becoming fashionable to say that it is futile to speak of human rights when people have yet to be assured of two square meals a day in a society that does not lack for resources. That latter statement, apart from its unctuousness, suggests to me in a rather macabre way that society would be happier if victims of torture were wellnourished rather than skeletal. Or that it would be perfectly acceptable to lock people up in totally darkened cells for 180 days at a stretch --- as was the practice in the old South Africa - as long as such prisoners are guaranteed three square meals a day. Let us quit this pointless game of com-parative humanism. The ideal society is not achieved by belittling one right of the individual in order to promote another; all ills of society are not addressed within the same breath; and a division of labour is the strategy of social responsibility. And it is from within this holistic awareness that we also insist that, while demotee the ideal condition of fundamental human rights, it is a rational, time-tested foundation on which we can begin to erect a superstructure of those rights.

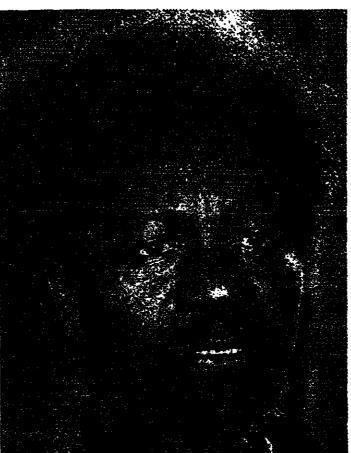
When I utter pessimistic sounds about progress within the democratic agenda since my exhortation of May 1988, I do, of course, acknowledge some progress on certain fronts, including even apartheid South Africa. Nevertheless, we cannot fail to note the continued desperation of resistance in a number of sister nations, including fraudulent cosmetic changes or propositions which make a mockery of our true destination. What is more --and this is what concerns us --

the seemingly or temporarily successful strategy of stalling the process, adopted by the obstinate few, serves to encourage backsliding motions even among those dictatorial regimes that have been compelled, by popular move-ments, to undertake a practical response to these demands.

Who, for instance, can dismiss outright the speculation that the ccessful instance of Burkina Faso has served as a model for the fraudulent conversion of power devised by Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings in order to rob the Ghanaian people yet again of their right to an authentic selfdetermination? In this contemptuous act of public deception undertaken by a power-hungry individual, we can only wish the Ghanaian people the necessary courage in putting a definitive check on this truly tiresome propensity of African leaders for selfperpetuation in power.

Can we doubt also that the machinations of Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, and Mr. Eyadema's murderous manipulation of an ethnic-based army (in Togo) in the project of self-perpetuation do not feed on each other for sustenance? Again, we must express our solidarity with the Togolese masses in their contestation of the continued treachery of their armed minority. The weapon of mass strikes and the paralysis of state machinery is a weapon in which we must take more than neighbourly interest; we never know when it might be our turn to employ similar tactics. Let us not fail to parallel also Houphouet-Boigny's delusion of grandeur (in the Côte d'Ivoire) with Hastings Banda's own defusion of immortality (in Malawi), providing us the pathe-tic spectacle of two senile octogenerians clinging desperately to the cliff-edge of power on arthritic finger-tips. The prisons of Malawi only temporarily immure the bodies of the proponents of freedom; their spirit is at liberty, and that spirit will shortly sweep Malawi into the widening democratic league that already embraces Zambia, the Republic of Congo, and Namibia, and has shaken the once impregnable ramparts of apartheid South Afri-

Delusions of grandeur, or power, are not, alas, confined to the aged and senile. Mr. Strassner of Sierra Leone is already exhibiting the banal symptoms. And on our home front (Nigeria) we have recently undergone a variety of assaults on our fragile democratic initiatives by individuals with uncommonly high levels self-regard. Where this delusion is most highly concentrated, what we have witnessed is a nearly singlehanded subversion of the democratic machinery, the purchase of so-called power-brokers — in reality mere mobsters, enforcers and thugs - recruited through agents the length and breadth of the country; we have witnessed the purchase of returning officers, state legislators, local government party chairmen, traditional rulers and, yes, even elected governors, who then convert the machinery of state to the personal service of one indi-



Wole Soyinka: While Democracy does not absolutely guarantee the ideal conditions of fundamental human rights, it is a rational, time-tested foundation on which we can begin to erect a superstructure of those

naira notes from a muted martial

Our tools, as writers, are words, and if I appear to have stated the obvious, I shall extend this further by stating that, as users of words primarily, it is only natural that we are more responsive, perhaps even overresponsive, to the nuances or sub-texts of the choices of public expression than the ordinary individual. The foregoing is to situate why I was recently startled by the contrast provided by two public expressions of the same objective, and reminded that there has been a promotion of certain dangerous tendencies in governance which we have wrongly designated as trivial. While we may dismiss certain foibles related to the podium of power as mere aberrations that will disappear with the termination of a particular regime, we would be shirking ing that we are being brainwashed into accepting such abnormalities as the norm, we do not immediately call attention to them. This is how traditions are established, even of the unsavoury kind. We dare not wait until our new democratic replacements and their appendages adopt what, in effect, are abuses of the government process. We have to let them know, now, that such conduct will not be tolerated. The time to place them on notice is now.

This nation is weary of arbitrary interventions in people's daily existence; it is ready for a civic order, even with all its own pitfalls, human failings and uncer-

tain prospects. We must spend a little more time on the military caste — and its human accretions — from whose control we insist our destiny must be wrenched. Nigerians forget easily. Or perhaps we should put it this way — the reaction of the average Nigerian to any challenging or unsettling even often suggests a failure to connect such an event to similar occurrences in the past, even as a homologue. Such recollection is bound to qualify, in a reasoned way, what would otherwise be a blind instinctual response to the immediate event. We know that we do recall events which provoked a similar hurt, a similar resentment, a similar state of rage, but, usually, only when the perpetrators of the new assault are the same as before, since this further propels us into the vengeful, emotive mode of response. attention of the editorialists, the media commentators, those who should charge themselves against over-reaction. A reaction which further compounds one's injury surely ends up awarding victory to the aggressor. Opera Wonyosi was written

over 15 years ago. Those whose memory needs jogging should revisit that play. It catalogues the atrocities committed on the Nigerian populace by the army. I recall that when it was first staged at the University of Ife at Convocation, a military governor who was a special guest was so outraged that he wanted to walk out and then institute action against killed one of theirs, they, the

the university - and myself of course - for such a denigration of the army's image. As the play proceeded, however, according to his own testimony he began to ask himself questions, and he ended up admitting to himself that the play depicted the truth. He said, "I began to feel ashamed

of my uniform.' I don't know if he was the one who took news of the performance to the then head of state, because that very head of state, General Olusegun Obasanjo, spoke to me about it in his usual memorable manner. He wanted us to give a command performance to which he would order his officers from all over the country. including the sergeant-majors. He felt it would do them a lot of good to be made to confront how they were perceived by other members of society. Then he added, "of course, you realise that after the show, I will lock all of you up, the writer, director, the actors, even the most junior stagehand."

It is a national tragedy, and a dark foreboding for our democra-tic future, that, 15 years after Opera Wonyosi, the army should not only abduct and incarcerate a number of policemen, but that a government spokesman should dare insult public intelligence by suggesting that the army had abducted a senior police officer and kept him away from his office and his family for 45 days "for his own safety". And anyone who believes that it was yet another coincidence that the inspectorgeneral of police ordered his men back on the beat after the release of the senior police officer, must be an alien to this Nigerian soil, indeed to the entire African continent. There is no question, not one iota of doubt in my mind, that the police withdrew their men, either through indirectly transmitted, unofficial directives, or else permitted their men to remain off-duty in that same "deconstructed" style that the army spokesman employed, looking the other way while they stayed off duty until their kidnapped colleagues were released. What this means is that we, the public, were placed in double jeopardy by the failure of the army to discipline its men. And, of course, we, the public, must accept that we were also in part contributors to our own fate, since we failed to condemn the

press on everyone is the general' loss to every section of the public. The mystique of esprit de corps, especially where one esprit de corps ranges itself against another, is costly, irrational and impatriotic. While the two groups themselves suffer casualties in the process, it is the defenceless public which pays the dearest penalty. The recent kidnapping of the policemen shows clearly that the army has yet to purge itself of its tendency towards organised out-lawry. By that kidnapping they assigned our fate to the hands of that no longer shadowy, third esprit de corps which they had taken for granted - that of organised violent crime. The army must be told that after the police

The lesson that I wish to im-

army's action.

army, then proceeded to create the circumstances for the gu down of two more from their own ranks, plus an unknown number of civilians, the highest in tay month that this country has ever kaowii.

We. as writers, have a duty to remind the public, to which we belong, of our own culpability is authenticating one of two faces of a counterfeit coin. We must ensure that we are not sucked so easily into illusory trimaphs which dislodge our real interests. It is time that the public developed and imposed on national consciousness a comprehensive esprit de corps, one that serves all sectors of the community, not one that excludes, or privile one sector at the expense of

And that same example must serve as our guide in the drive to take the military out of our political existence and ensure that they remain outside it, permanently. If we fail to absorb the lesson of the (recent past) in its fullness, we shall yet again fall into the trap of crowing over the self-destruction of our erstwhile presidential aspirants, and thereby reverse ourselves in our democratic undertaking. I have already heard the refrain in many unexpected quarters - let the army stay on, the civilians have proved that they have learnt nothing, the newbreed is the oldbreed except in subtlety, Babangida should not go ... and so on ad infinitem. While rightly blaming the politicians for the recent electoral debacle, the same opinions obscure the fact that the entire transition programme was the work and the responsibility of the army in government. The duration, the narties, the constitution, the manifestoes, the changes upon changes upon changes and reverses of gear to various starting points, the decision on open be loting, the erstwhile pariab moneybags translated into cashtankers ... every detail and consequence, including even the existence of the telegenic chairman of the NEC, all was the handiwork of this military régime. So how can the failure of such a multi-billion naira project -- no expense spared — be used as a justification for prolonging the

What is at stake here is more than the credibility of the army as perceived by the public; it is also a question of future trust between the many interest groups which make up the nation, the army into our political fortunes has not been without its achievemen and a sense of decency, of fair dealing, demands that all such should be acknowledged. Indeed, 🏄 I would go further and assert it as a fundamental right of the army in government that its attain ments be objectively assessed and acknowledged. That, bowever, can only be after it has fulfilled its pledge to the nation in every particular, not as variable evidence of goodwill but of solema patriotic duty. And on that note, I suggest that we leave them alone to prepare in orderly fashion the final leg of their farewell undertaking: Jan. 2, 1993 is, after all, only a very short haul away.

stay of the army?

Uncertainty engulfs Quebec's future

By Deborah Charles

Reuter The resignation of Canadian

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney could add fuel to the the separatist movement in Quebec as the French-speaking province loses a strong ally in Ottawa.

Mr. Mulroney, a bilingual Quebecker of Irish descent, has

always had a unique relationship with Quebec despite being one of Canada's most unpopular leaders to date due in part to a controversial seven per cent value-added tax and double-digit unemploy-

Mr. Mulroney - who resigned as conservative leader on Wednesday — may not have been liked all the time, but he is a "son of Quebec" who worked hard to solve the differences between Quebec and the rest of Canada.

"Quebec loses an ally," headlined the editorial page of Quebec's Le Soleil newspaper on Thursday. Editorial page Editor Michel Audet credited Mr. Mulroney with "modifying the traditional political alliances in Ouebec.'

Mr. Mulroney forged a close relationship with liberal Quebec premier Robert Bourassa - one of the province's strongest supporters of Quebec's staying with-

in Canada. But the future is uncertain for Mr. Bourassa, who has been sidelined with a recurrence of cancer and who says he will make a decision on his political future after he sees how his body reacts to experimental cancer treatMr. Mulroney's resignation, coupled with Mr. Bourassa's illness and rumours that he too may step down, has added to the

vidual, marching to the sweet

uncertainty of Quebec's future. Claude Ryan, a senior Quebec minister and another staunch supporter of Quebec's staying within anada, said the province has lost a "tremendous voice" with Mr. Mulroney's resignation, adding that federalism is in trouble in Quebec without a credible voice in Ottawa.

"Canadian federalism is in very difficult shape at the moment, Mr. Ryan told reporters. "How is it going to be handled in the future? I don't know. There is great instability."

The separatist, opposition Quebecois said it sees Mr. Mulroney's resignation as a boon to the federal pro-separatist bloc

For all but one of the last 25 years, Canada has been run by a bilingual Quebecker, and analysts have traditionally held that elections are won or lost in Onebec.

Most of the leading contenders to head up the Conservative Party are not from Quebec, a fact which could alter the relationship between the province - which asserts its rights as a distinct society with a different culture from that of English-speaking Canada — and the rest of the

Parti Quebecois leader Jacques Parizeau has already set out a long-term plan for the party that will lead to "sovereignty" - political separation with continued economic links — for Quebec by

Clinton: the politics of caution

BY Jim Wolf Reuter

WASHINGTON — The planned U.S. airdrop over Bosnia marks a cautious foreign debut for President Bill Clinton, clearly eager to avoid escalation into a major entanglement abroad.

In announcing plans to drop relief supplies from high altitudes, the White House took pains to describe it as a humanitarian mission that would benefit all sides in the Balkan conflict and not lead to deeper U.S. involvement there.

"These airdrops are being car-ried out strictly for humanitarian purposes. No combat aircraft will be used in this operation," Mr. Clinton has said.

It would a "great mistake" to read the operation as "some initial foray toward a wider military role," he said during a recent joint press conference with Brit-ish Prime Minister John Major.

The deliveries, from as high as 3,000 metres to avoid ground fire, were "not a political issue with us" and would help anybody who needs the food and medicine," Mr. Clinton added.

That represented a significant shift in rhetoric about an operation initially cast as a reply to Serb efforts to starve Bosnian Muslims into submission.

In denying any political agenda and carefully lining up allied support, Mr. Clinton was trying to avoid, among other things, enraging Serbian forces, potentially capable of shooting down a U.S. cargo plane and forcing U.S.

But the Serbs, widely branded by the West as the principal culprits, are not the only ones who could turn Bosnia into a foreign-policy nightmare for the



new administration. In fact, Serbs seem to fear that

desperate Bosnian Muslims might themselves down a U.S. aircraft in hopes Washington would blame the Serbs and enter the conflict to punish them.

Retired army Lieutenant-General Williams Odom, head of National Security Studies at the Private Hudson Institute, said Mr. Clinton's caution could backfire if it led to escalation of ethnic warfare that spilled across European borders.

"The thing gets out of control as you go up the ladder a small rung of a time, Mr. Odom, who headed the U.S. National Security Agency from 1985 to 1988, said in a telephone interview. If it was in U.S. interests to intervene, Mr. Clinton would do better to go in with 10 NATO

divisions, one or two Russian divisions, plus a Ukrainian division, to quell fighting that might otherwise grow to involve Greece, Turkey, Albania and Bulgaria, he said.

A force of that size might have to stay as long as 20 years throughout most of the former

Yugoslavia "while the locals come to terms and create a government that they can live with," Mr. Odom said. "That's going to the top rung of the ladder," he said, "not screw-

ing around with a few food de-

But Mr. Clinton, who has said he planned to focus "like a laser" on the American economy, may have concluded putting U.S. ground forces into Bosnia held the potential for another

Vietnam-style quagmire.
Metvin Goodman, who analysed international issues for the Central Intelligence Agency for 20 years and is now a professor of international relations at the U.S. National War College, said previous presidents had erred by attempting early military adventures before their administrations were acting in harmony,

He cited John Kennedy and the disastrous 1961 Cuban Bay of Pigs invasion, Lyndon Johnson in Vietnam and Gerald Ford and the costly bid to rescue Americans on the freighter Mayaguez

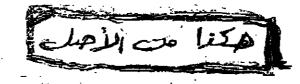
off Cambodia in 1975. "I will give Clinton a certain

amount of credit. This is a mistake he's trying to avoid, Mr. Goodman said, adding Mr. Canton was using "incredible cantion" in ordering the highaltitude airlift to avoid shootdown over Bosnia.

"The only thing you can be sure, from 10,000 feet, is that the supplies will indeed land on earth," he said citing the comment of a U.S. air force pilot. Mr. Climon may also be especially prone to caution because of the timely reminder from Some lia, where a number of Some were shot and possibly killed by U.S. troops during nots in Moga-

dishu in the past weeks. The violence was the worst since December when then President George Bush launchet the U.S.-led humanitarian effort: to queli clan warfare so relici agencies could help starving

The flare-up, after two months of relative calm, raised new questions about whether U.S. forces. would be able to restone order quickly, as they had planned, and hand over their peace keeping duties to a U.N. contingent



Syria to convene Arab meeting

415 Palestinians from the occupied territories. Mr. Christopher is now gambling that Arabs, in-chaing the Palestinians, would be ready to return to the talks before all the evictees were returned to their homes.

Mr. Christopher said he had not asked and did not receive an assurance from Mr. Sharaa that Syria would attend the April talks. The assurance he did recrise was apparently a more general commitment to work for the resumption of the peace pro-

Mr. Christopher said he had been emparaged by the reaction to the decision to issue invita-

"I continue to feel optimistic. I'm encouraged by developments since yesterday when the ent was made," he

Mr. Christopher said Sharaa had repeated that he attached the highest value to reconvening the peace talks and had said he was pleased the invitations had been issued for April.

Mr. Sharaa said in a newspaper interview published Friday the United States must back implementation of a U.N. resolution enging the return of the evictees. But he said Syria, a key player in the peace process, had not linked that issue to Syrian parti-

cipation in the talks. In his interview with the Prench newspaper Le Figaro, Mr. Shara and suspicions that Syria wanted to conclude the negotiations with Israel without waiting for them had "no foundation.

"We want a global settlemest." Mr. Sharaa said. "If we had wanted a separate peace, we could have done it years ago. If more attention is paid to the Syrian-Israeli negotiations than to the others, that is because there can be no peace without

"All I can say at the present time is we felt confident enough about the situation to have indicated that we think the next round of these negotiations should commence in April," Mr. Christopher told a joint news conference after meeting Mr.

Kozyrev.
"We felt there were enough positive signs to have made the

A U.S. official said Mr. Christopher decied to propose the idea to Mr. Kozyrev after late night contacts Wednesday with parties to the negotiations.

Mr. Christopher said several of the leaders he met in the Middle East stressed the importance of ing talks quickly.

This is a historic moment. I was surprised by the number of countries, the number of leaders, who told me in the Middle East that they think it's a one-off opportunity for peace," he said.
"And they want to grasp the

"The U.S.-Russian move put intense pressure on Palestinian negotiators to attend the talks even if their demand for the immediate return of the expelled Palestinians was not met.

Adding to the pressure on the Palestinians, President Bill Clinton sent a letter to East Jerusalem leader Faisal Husseini which spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi described as "positive and en-

couraging."
Mr. Kozyrev said Russia would
Delectrinian leadhold talks with Palestinian leaders in Moscow within the next few days to try to persuade them to attend the talks and to fix a specific date.

In occupied Jerusalem; the head of the Palestinian negotiat-ing team, Haider Abdul Shafi, from all the proposals," Mr. said the invitation was premature Abed Rabbo said.

because there was still no solution to the evictees problem. Dr. Abdul Shafi told Israeli army radio that invitations would

be "a little premature because the American administration still hasn't responded to the Palesti-

nian requirements." He indicated Israel had not accepted two key Palestinian demands, for it to repatriate the nearly 400 expellees and to pledge not to expel more Palesti-

Spokeswoman Ashrawi said they had received two "encouraging" letters each from President Clinton and from Mr. Christopher Thursday, but that their essages fell short of resolving

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said the expulsion of the 400 Palestinians was an exception to government policy, but the government has not made any statement renouncing the practice of

in a speech Thursday, Mr. Rabin defended the practice, even as he gave an upbeat assessment of the peace process.

"We are ready to make compromises for peace. But we are not ready for compromises in the

war against terror," he said.

Speaking of prospects for peace, Mr. Rabin said, "It is very likely that this next year will be one of the most fateful and important in the history of the state Israel" and that the Jewish state would face difficult deci-

"There is a chance that 45 ears of war will come to an end. that perhaps there will be an end to the blood and tears," Mr. Rabin said. "It doesn't only depend on us or our wishes, but we as a government and a state can and will make our contribution."

The Maariv newspaper reported, meanwhile, that Israel offered a compromise to the Palestinians in which it would immediately repatriate up to 30 more of the expellees.

It already offered to bring back 101 now and the rest by the end of the year. But the evictees and the Palestinian delegates insisted the men be returned imdiately and without conditions line with a U.N. Security Council resolution.

Another newspaper, Hadashot, said Israel also offered to allow back dozens of PLO supporters expelled in past years. Both proposals were reportedly made to Mr. Christopher in his talks in Israel Tuesday and

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben Ari declined comment on the

In Tunis, the PLO said that invitations to a new round of peace talks were "premature" but added that it welcomed U.S. proposals to resolve the evi

PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo told Reuters that invitations to resume the talks in April were "premature and that the Palestinian participation was pending to the commitment to the U.S. proposals and the solution of the deportees issue."

The PLO says Israel has rejected a U.S. plan to speed the return home of the evictees. "We sent an urgent letter to Warren Christopher on Wednesday night telling him the PLO welcomes these proposals. But when they saw that the Palestinian position was positive, the Israelis came on Thursday morning and asked for amendments

Group urges Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

operative as a party during the month of Ramadan, West Bank tories and will not hold on to it DFLP activist Mamdouh Nofal told the Jordan Times.

The Tunis-based DFLP wing agreed to represent FIDA in the PLO Executive Committee, the Palestine Central Council (PCC) and the PNC. While Mr. Abed Rabbo is not the head of the party he will represent the party's interests outside the occupied territories along with other DFLP officials belonging to his branch of the

party.
"We, as a group have always chosen the 'realistic' way, the way of cohabitation and mutual recognition," said Friday's statement. "We chose to de-centralise while others were centralising even more than previously," the

statement said. "Our merger with FIDA shows that we are taking the decisionregardless of the consecu

The statement made no mention of the other DFLP members in Tunis or their politics. The group called on Israel to immediately return the Palestinian expellees stranded in South Lebanon, and apply U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

"We call on our Arab brothers to coordinate our efforts to accomplish a total Arab-Israeli peace and not a partial, fractured one — a land for peace formula."

"The intifada must continue till the Palestinians is achieved and until the occupation of the

Hamas leaders meet Western envoys (Continued from page 1)

urned down. But the delegation regotiating on behalf of the alestinians in the Middle East eace talks is controlled by the

"Under the circumstances, re-

unption of the dialogue with the LO will reflect positively on the lands from occupation."

peace process," Mr. Abu Sharif Mr. Nazzal said: "Our main

goal was to explain our political charter, to make it clear to the Americans that Hamas is not a terrorist group, but a group striving for liberating Palestinian

'Russia's inheritance of the Soviet Union is illegal'

By Farouq Tobulat

On Oct. 25, 1917, the Bolsheviks carried out a coup; on Oct. 26, 1917, the Petrograd Soviet and the Provisional Revolutionary Committee, in a unilateral decision, without consulting the peoples inhabiting the Russian empire, formed the Russian goverament, the Council of Peoples' Commisars.

The resolution of the first Soviet Congress on "federal establishment of the Russian Republic," on Jan. 15, 1918, adopted unilaterally and without considering national peculiarities and peoples' volition, pointed out that the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) was founded on the basis of a voluntary union of Russians as a federation of ex-Soviet republics, but there is no corresponding ement or treaty signed by these people's representatives.

On July 1, 1918, the constitution of the Russian Federation was adopted; in it is a constitution that does not take into account the national republics' volition and does not mention who the federation's subjects are and who founded it. The treaty on forming the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

was signed by the Russian Federation on behalf of all the peoples inhabiting the Russian In June 1990, the RSFSR. adopted the declaration of

sovereignty, which proclaimed the superiority of Russia's legislation over the legislation of the USSR. It was the first step on the way of destroying the unitied state — the USSR.

On Dec. 8, 1991, the leaders of the Russian federation, the Ukraine and Byelorussia concluded the agreement on forming the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) which announced the abolition of the USSR. Consequently, the USSR stopped existing as a subject of international law and a geopolitical reality, as the treaty points

This decision was illegal because, according to the points of the agreement on forming the USSR in 1922, the subjects of the union could only denounce the treaty (i.e. leave the Union), but On Dec. 21, 1991, the Alma-

Union heads of republics took place. Eight more republics oined the agreement.

It was decided in Alma-Ata that other republics of the USSR should support Russia as the union's successor. Specifically, they should acknowledge Russia's right to substitute the Soviet Unon at the U.N. Security Council. Since some union republics which signed the agreement or joined it were illegal, such as the republics of Moldovia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and others which were formed according to the USSR's laws and did not exit as independent states before, the Alma-Ata meeting violates all legal norms and Russia has no grounds for membership in the U.N. and its bodies, especialthe Security Council, as the

USSR successor state. Russia and other CIS founders rudely deprived their citizens of USSR citizenship which legally meant an automatic loss of their citizenship because, according to Article 16 of the law on citizenship in the USSR of Dec. 1, 1978, the loss of the USSR citizenship is followed by the loss of a union republic's citizenship. It follows that any changes of the state system or relations between the parties who had signed the agreement on founding the CIS with other states and interna-

tional organisations are illegal as are any acts adopted by these states before adopting a national legislation on citizenship. After changing the legal status of the RSFSR, no referendum or new elections to the supreme bodies of legislation were held,

let alone adopting the new conctitution So the above analysis of the

existing documents brings us to the following:

1. Founding the RSFSR as a federative state was illegal because there was neither peoples' volition nor legal documents signed.

2. Russia's inheriting the former USSR's rights and its presence in the U.N. Security Council is illegal. 3. The cancellation of the

USSR and foundation of the CIS

The writer is head of the Information Bureau and official spokesman of the Chechen Republic in Ata Summit of the former Soviet Jordan and in the Middle East.

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Thinker urges Islamic 'cultural revolution'

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO - A new cultural revolution is needed in the Arab countries where Islamic fundamentalism is a growing prob-lem. That is the verdict of Egyptian-born Dr. Rouchdi Fakkar, humanist, sociologist and one of the Arab World's great contemporary thinkers. The best way to combat Islamic extremism is not by sending in the troops, says Dr. Fakkar, but by teaching the people - and especially the younger generation - that the true Islamic religion has nothing to do with violence or terror

"These young terrorists, these children who are being manipulated, they need to be trained and educated," said Dr. Fakkar. "I would wish for a cultural and educational revolution in all the Muslim countries.

In an interview, he talked of his sadness at the way Islam's real nature has been distorted by religious reactionaries. And he launched a proposal for a campaign to restore the human face of the Islamic faith. "I am proud to be a Muslim. I am proud of Islam, but of an Islam that is reconciliatory and willing to open up to other religions," said Dr. Fakkar.
"Islam must find its place once again in our society, as many right-thinking people want it to. but we must begin at the beginning...You can't have Islam without the Muslims."

At the heart of the problem, says the Egyptian sociologist, is an ever-widening gap between the true teachings of the Islamic religion and the distorted version that some sectors have created for their own political ends. "It is sad today to see a prefabricated Islam that each person has designed to suit his own needs." said Dr. Fakkar. "Some people seem to believe they have the

tion of living according to the rules of Islam. A person who steals, tricks, kills and fornicates is living outside the realm of

íslam. The 64-year-old intellectual, one of the most highly regarded minds in the Islamic World, was born in Karnak in southern Egypt. After graduating from the University of Al Azhar, he went on to teach in several major European seats of learning, in-cluding the Sorbonne and the University of Geneva, Specialising in pre-Marxist sociology and socialism. Dr. Fakkar's studies also cover social anthropology, cultural relations and psychology. He has worked for UNESCO and published around 50 books, articles and essays. Founder of the Institute of Sociology in Morocco, it is there that he now lives.

with his wife and two children.

Dr. Fakkar's views are wideranging, and he rejects narrow interpretations of religion and race. For a time, he worked with Georges Gurvitch, a Russianborn Jew and renowned sociologist whom Dr. Fakkar describes as a "genius in his field." "One must be objective," said Dr. Fakkar. The Jews have made great contributions to progress in all the fields of culture and science. Having said that, let us not forget that there is a category of Jew who is chauvinist and racist, completely closed to the outside world These are the real enemies, not just to Arabs, but to other Jews and to Judaism in general. One cannot take them as an example by which to judge an entire peo-

According to Dr. Fakkar, dialogue is the only real hope for a narrowing of the gap between the Muslim World and the West. I., believe that democracy is slowly making headway almost everywhere in the Arab World, even if it only takes the form of the monopoly on the Islamic faith. In traditional Islamic consultative fact. Islam is quite simply a ques- councils. The days of the dicta-

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terminology of the Arab and cultural aspect of our religion." Muslim civilisation," he said. In answer to critics who have

analyse them...That is why, as a achieving and want to achieve

torships are over. I believe there field. A government cannot be is a hope that the type of dialogue responsible for every aspect — I propose will soon be a reality." economic, social, political and In the face of a certain mistrust religious matters as well. Why not for the word democracy on the redistribute the responsibilities." part of some Islamicists, Dr. Fak- The Islamic thinkers should take kar recommends a reworking of responsibility for an area of work the terminology. "We must try to which belongs to them." he said. create a bridge, a kind of beach- "Iran is trying to usurp, this role, head of understanding between and that is our fault. We have the western terminology and the rather neglected the spiritual and

Recent scenes of terrorist vio-levelled accusations of authoritalence in Egypt, which have seen rian rule against the Moroccan young adolescents attacking bus-government, the Egyptian loads of foreign tourists, are the sociologist repeats his warmings of product of a complex cocktail of the danger of trying to ford westfactors, says the sociologist. "It is ern values and interpretations on a mistake to try to give just one the Islamic World. "One should single explanation of these not confuse democracy in Europe events," he said. "On the con- where public opinion is trary, there are so many contri- already well informed - with buting factors that it is not easy to what the governments of other bring them all together and to countries may be capable of sociologist, I hope that repression said Dr. Fakkar, "We have seen will be used only as a last resort, where democracy has led people when all the other methods have who were not yet ready to take on failed, when dialogue has become this kind of freedom. One need impossible and when there is no look no further than Algeria. longer any room for negotia- Every people should be governed according to a formula which The cultural revolution which corresponds to its cultural level, Dr. Fakkar so strongly advocates its customs and traditions, and to should be entrusted to an internatits degree of openness to the tional group of independent Isla- outside world. It is a grave mismic thinkers, he explained, take to suggest that there is just "Governments cannot and should one type of democracy in this not play the leading role in every world" — World News Link.

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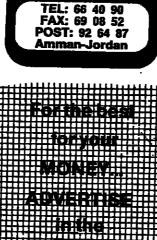
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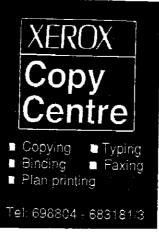
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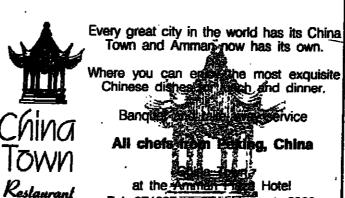
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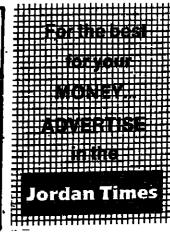
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Al Ahli boycott All-Star-tournament

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Almost all the Kingdom's First Division basketball players will be competing in Jordan's second All-Star basketball tournament which begins Tuesday March 3 at Al Orthodoxi's court.

The exception will be the players of one of Jordan's two basketball powerhouses — Al Ahli - whose board Thursday announced that players of their First Division basketball team would boycott the All-Star tournament until the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) seriously looks into and decides upon their disputed First Division match against Al Orthodoxi.

The disputed match of Jan. 26 was won by Al Orthodoxi, but Al Ahli has since protested to the JBF and the Ministry of Youth citing "obvious mismanagement by the referees" which led to their 84-81 loss of the match and the 1992 title.

The controversy has not yet been resolved as the JBF stumbled while trying to solve the

SCOTTSDALE (R) — Americans Andre Agassi and Malivai Washington posted straight-set

victories Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$300,000

Scottsdale Tennis Tournament.

tryman Keith Evans, a qualifier

playing in only his fourth profes-

ated Marcelo Filippini of Uru-

si's next opponent, outlasted

Gabriel Markus of Argentina, in

a pair of tiebreakers 7-6 (7-1) 7-6

also reached the quarterfinals,

defeating Luiz Mattar of Brazil

6-3, 6-3 and will play Washing-

Derrick Rostagno and eighth-seed Andrei Chesnokov will

square off in another quarterfinal and fifth-seeded Brad Gilbert will

face South Africa's Markos

in the world, used a punishing groundstroking game and solid

service returns.

Agassi, 22, and ranked eighth

But he struggled, making just

41 per cent of his first serves and

added three double faults

"His big serve (five aces, six double faults), made him danger-

ous," said Agassi of his oppo-

nent's 124 mph (200 kph) serves.

"He was serving so big, his

only chance out there was if he,

would've held serve. But that was

asking for a little bit too much.

He served so hard. I'd catch him

in trouble on the return," said

Agassi, who broke his opponent

"I'm not at all happy with my

serve. At times I struggled to find

Peanuts

against Evans, ranked 377th.

Australian Mark Woodforde

Earlier, Washington elimin-

Emilio Sanchez of Spain, Agas-

sional tour stop, 6-1, 6-3.

guay, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Agassi beat hard-serving coun-

biggest controversy that has hit the federation. The Ministry of Youth then advised the forming of a fact-finding committee to probe the matter and provide a solution that would somewhow please all concerned.

The ministry's secretarygeneral, Eid Al Fayez, had announced the forming of the committee on Feb: 10, affirming that its decision would be

final and bindiong to all.

No decision has yet been announced, although the committee met with boards of both clubs in the past days.

Al Ahli board member and spokesman Samir Janakat, told the Jordan Times that the clubs' under-22 players will be taking part in the All-Star tournament "as that would serve the best interests of the under-22 national team" which is now preparing to take part in the Asian Youth Basketball Championship in Hong Kong

Participating players in the All-Star competition have been divided to five teams bearing the names of their sponsors. They are Toyota,

Agassi advances to quarterfinals

Andre Agassi

it. But fortunately my game

doesn't live and die in one area."

year, utilized an all-court game

despite committing seven double

faults during the one-hour, 58-

good, hitting the ball solidly, not

making many errors. I was cruis-

ing," said Washington, a quarter-

finalist last week in the U.S.

and the final two games of the

match. The parts in between I

thought I played OK ... nothing

great but I guess it was well

Rottier stops Austin

Tracy Austin's incredible com-

eback run hit a roadblock when

the 30-year-old American was

beaten by Stephanie Rottier of the Netherlands 6-1, 6-0 in the

Cup tennis tournament Thurs-

third round of the \$375,000 Evert

enough to get the job done."

I'm happy with the first set

indoors at Philadelphia.

"I thought I started out pretty

Washington, a semifinalist last

Mercedes, Mitsubishi, Hyun-dai and Daihatsu.

The teams will be coached by Mohammad Al Najjar, Ibrahim Al Ja'fari, Ghaith Al Najjar, Fadi Al Sabbah and the JBF's Russian coach for the Daihatsu team which will group the under-22 team.

The Toyota team includes

Murad Barakat, Samir Murqus, Asem Al Samman and Maher Zuhdi, Hilal Barakat, Marwan Ma'touq, Vicken Avakian and Khaled Abu Namous will be playing in the Mercedes team. Walid Bad-ran, Nadim Al Nahhas, Raed Al Haj and Arafat Abu Khalaf are in the Mitsubishi team, while the Hyundai team includes Jihad Saliba, Jamal Buheiri, Naser Bushnaq and Jan Sahlieh. The Daihatsu "under-22" team includes Muntaser Abutayyeb, Ghaith Ennabi, Raed Jaber, Mohammad Al Shamali and Ziyad Al

In the first match of the

tournament Hyundai play Mitsubishi Wednesday. The tournament will run up to

dez of the United States outslug-

ged country woman Kimberty Po 6-3, 6-3 in her third round match to advance to the quarterfinals of the 56-

player, hard court tournament.

Maleeva of Bulgaria maintained

her concentration in the decisive

tiebreak to hold off fourteenth-

seeded Rachel McQuillan of Au-

stralia 6-4 2-6 7-6 (7-3) in her

third round match.
Austrin, the 1979 U.S. Open

champion who was once ranked

number one, admittedly was out-

played by the 76th-ranked Rot-

tier who won the last 11 games of

the match by hitting numerous

winners from the backcourt and

taking advantage of Austin's

sleeping after her second round

win over second-seeded Katerina

Maleeva of Bulgaria, as she was

thinking about the numerous con-

gratulatory messages she received

from current players like Amer-

ican Michael Chang to past cham-

pions like American Rosie Cas-

"I'm still extremely ecstatic about this week," Austin said.

"Coming in, my goal was to win one match. To beat someone like

Katerina went beyoned my goals

of the tournament. Obviously,

I'm disappointed. I hate losing,

but I tried everything I could. She

played great. I've had a great

tournament. It's just the begin-

Prior to this week. Austin had

played just two matches since

1984, losing both during her 1989

comeback which was cut short by

a car accident which required

surgery that left a pin in her right

knee. She had not beaten a top-

ranked player for 10 years.

Austin said she had trouble

short balls.

Third-seeded Magdalena

the twilight of his career. "Some journalists in Germany seem to enjoy writing off famous

Kasparov, **Short refuse** to play in Manchester

LONDON (R) — World cham-pion Garry Kasparov and conten-der Nigel Short Friday refused to play their World Chess final under the jurisdiction of the International Chess Federation

Then said in a statement they were setting up a new professional chess body and invited fresh bids to stage the final.

Manchester was due to stage the 24-game final in August, under a FIDE decision announced earlier this week. But Short, 27, and Kasparov, 29, said they had not been consulted by FIDE before its decision.

The statement said Short, the first Briton to challenge for the World Chess title in more than 100 years, had not been informed by FIDE of the bids made.

It added that ,FIDE had announced a starting date for the match without consulting the players.

Short and Kasparov said FIDE was not a suitable body to organise the chess world's most important competition.

They said the match would now be played under the auspices of a new body, the Professional Chess Association. Both players had agreed to donate 10 per cent of lishing the body, the statement added. the prize fund towards estab-

Littbarski faces difficult days

BONN (R) - Pierre Littbarski. the most entertaining German footballer of the past decade, is finding his last days in the Bundesliga the toughest of his career. Littbarski played in three World Cup final tournaments. featuring in the triumph of 1990 after West Germany had finished runners-up in 1982 and 1986.

But the 32-year-old midfielder, whose dribbling skills and cheerful personality have always pleased the crowds, has had to put up with his share of bad times in his 15 years in the game. And the footballing life is parti-

cularly tricky for Littbarski just

Despite his immense experience Littbarski, who was dropped from the national team when Berti Vogts took over as coach from Franz Beckenbauer after the 1990 World Cup, is struggling to get into the first team at relegation-threatened Cologne.
The Rhine club's battle to

avoid the drop has also endangered Littbarski's hopes of ending his career with a lucrative contract with Jr. East Furukawa Football Club in the new

Japanese League. The Berlin-born player, whose recent problems have been dragged through the popular press, admits life has not been easy in

But in the last few months he has been in the bad books at Cologne, who are more used to fighting for the title then relegaplayers when their performance

are not that good," he said. "They put the boot in at the end Last November Littbarski, capped 73 times, was heavily fined by of their careers. Toni Schuthe club after he left a pre-match training camp without permission macher and Paul Breitner had the and was involved in a motorway same experience."

Littbarski's ability to motivate accident. Littbarski could make \$1.26

his team mates has always been a major bonus at national and inmillion a year by joining England's former international Gary ternational level. His humour off Lineker in the inaugural Jthe pitch was important in keeping up team morale during the 1990 World Cup campaign. League. The German knows the contract would be his last chance for a top-class deal before he

Japanese officials are due to visit Cologne March 1 to negotiate the deal.



One of Germany's most popular players, Pierre Littbarski (right) rejoices after scoring a goal for the German national team

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Wembley backs match for Moore memorial

LONDON.(R) - Wembley Stadium may stage a match later this year between England and a star-studded rest of the world team in memory of Bobby Moore. Wembley chairman Sir Brian Wolfson Thursday gave permission for the use of the stadium the scene of Moore's greatest triumph as a player when he led England to World Cup victory in 1966. Franz Beckenbauer, who captained the West German team which lost the match to England, has already indicated he is willing to take part. Pele, another great name, is also being lined up. The death of the 51-year-old Moore Wednesday, after a two-year battle against cancer, shocked the soccer world. The West Ham Club, where he spent most of his playing days, turned into a shrine Thursday as hundreds of mourning fans went to the ground to pay homage to

Orthez reach last 8 in Eurobasketball

LONDON (R) - French club Orthez reached the last eight of the European Clubs' Championship at the fourth attempt in recent weeks when they beat Treviso of Italy 82-55 in Pau Thursday. Orthez had lost their last three matches in Group B, any of which would have given them a berth into the quarter-finals, but finally came good in a game which was harder fought than the score suggests. American Clinton Wheeler scored 28 points to lead Bayer Leverkusen to a well-deserved 92-80 victory over Estudiantes Madrid in Group B. Real Madrid wound up with a fine 105-76 success over Zadar to finish on top of the group with 26 points. Olympiakos secured their passage to the last eight with an 85-66 win over Mechelen. Paok Salonika finished top of Group A with an easy 81-67 home victory over Cibona Zagreb. Limoges (France also progress to the last eight along with Italians Pesaro

Pistons trade Woolridge, keep Rodman

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) — The Detroit Pistons kept Dennis Rodman and instead released Orlando Woolridge. There had been talk all week that the Pistons were trying to trade the fickle Rodman. They traded Woolridge to the Milwaukee Bucks for Alvin Robertson just thinutes before the trading deadline of 9 p.m. EST (0200 GMT). Rodman, the NBA's leading rebounder, is defensive player in the League.

Higuita relieves World Cup nightmare

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Rene Higuita, Colombia's unorthodox goalkeeper, relieved his World Cup nightmare in the libertadores cup this week. Playing for his club Atletico Nacional of Colombia against Flamengo, Higuita attempted to dribble past Flamengo forward Renato in front of his own goal, lost control of the ball and handed Renato one of the easiest goals of his career. It gave the Brazilian champions a 1-0 win as they became the first foreign team to triumph in Atletico's Stadium since 1975. Higuita was jeered off the field by home fans. Higuita's blunder was all too reminiscent of the goal which knocked Colombia out of the 1990 World Cup, when he lost the ball to Roger Milla in midfield, allowing the Cameroon forward to gleefully score his team's

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Both vulnerable. South deals.

The bidding:
South West North East
8 NT Page 7 NT Page

Opening lead: Ten of ∇ It's never pleasant to land in a grand slam which depends on a fi-nesse. Even worse is when the cause

West led a heart and declarer could count only 10 fast tricks. The missing three tricks would have to come from clubs, a suit in which declarer was missing the king. Rather than delay matters, declarer de-cided that, after winning the heart lead, it was time to plonk down the queen of clubs. When West covered with the king, declarer was about ready to claim. Unfortunately, West showed out on the second club, and declarer could come to only 12

Declarer was in too much of a burry to go after clubs. See what happens if declarer cashes another high heart at trick two, on which East discards. Next come three rounds of spades, followed by three fiamonds, to which both de follow. From the play to the first eight tricks declarer discovers that West started with six hearts and at least three cards in each pointed suit. That leaves room for at most

The only chance South has to bring in the club suit without loss is to find West with a bare king of clubs. So the three of clubs is led and, when that fetches the king, the

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, 1993 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Something may appear to be very practical, but that may change considerably when more information surfaces. Today, there is ample resistance around for anything

ARTES: (March 21 to April 19) You can wind up a project that has been preoccupying your attention but be careful to avoid a critical superior while later an associate backs you loyally.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Keep busy at improving your charm, appearance at a beauty salon or barber shop of your choice, eliminate blemishes; later put beauty in your work.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Do or mothing that can raise the hackles of any family member and then you will be able to be pleasantly off to entertainments that you like. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21) Be careful you say just what you intend in any communications or correspon whether of an oral or a written nature to avoid trouble.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't do anything of a material nature that can put you behind the eight ball but later be off with charmers. get their good will and enjoy

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You would be wise not to seem

to be too critical or demanding in seeking whatever you now desire but later you can impress experts with financial acumen.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You feel you have too many nonproductive duties to perform but you can soon get them in back of you and go after, obtain things you really want.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't appear to others to be too absorbed in gaining your ends and critical of them while later you can have a happy time with your romantic love.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to SAGITTARIUS: (November 21) You could easily get December 21) You could easily get on the wrong side of an influent person by any unwise moves but later you see ways to gain your personal objectives.

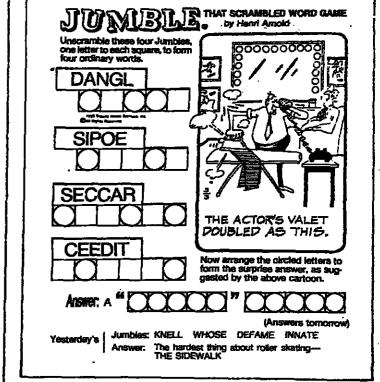
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) New interests require you handle them with a considerable amount of caution so study with care; tonight be receptive to a favour from a bigwig.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't be reluctant to ary 19) Don't be retaction of attend to whatever promises you have made early in the day, then you will be able to get off to interesting new projects.

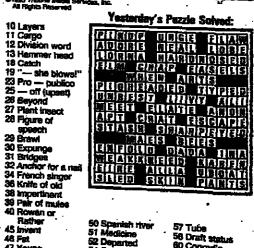
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well what you have agreed to be with a watchful partner and don't let that person down after which you can handle busi-



"I knew Stanley was getting serious about me when he played our song on his armpit."



THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart ACROSS 1 Ravioli casin 6 Pasture sout 10 Lose one's routine/a-one 20 Seamander 21 Adjutant 22 Was wearing 23 Tiny amount 24 Coup d'— 26 Make the rounds 30 Green gem 33 Kitchen garment 44 Manitobe Indian 55 — Alber Calif 35 — Altos, Calif. 37 Voting method/ essily 41 Pourboire 42 Final 43 Check casher 44 Turn down 47 Taper Yesterday's Pezzie Solved: 49 Bon — (stylish society) 50 Yard tool 11 Cargo 12 Division word 13 Hammer head 18 Catch 53 Catchall phrase 55 Pedestel part 59 Track meet 19 "— **she bi**med



eliest of the

Wonderland" 65 Type of arch 66 Repeir 67 Horse blanket

DÓWN

1 Hock 2 Feel pain 3 Put away 4 Experime 5 Commotive

COULD DO IT! is an injudicious overbid, and it beto an injunctions overing, and it be-comes calamitous when the perpe-trator also underplays the hand. North-South were using a range of 25-27 for an opening bid of three no trump, so South was one point short. Not much, but just enough to cause a problem when North, look-ing at 13 points, bounced right into a

THAT IT WAS

MIND-

BUT YOU'RE NO ----

NOT RICH! IT FOUND OUT





INIENTY I FOUND

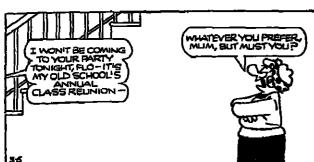
OUT THAT IF I

MIND TO DO





Andy Capp



YOU GET

THIS RICH

FEELING?



SO I MADE V

UP MY MIND

THAT IN TEN

YEARS I WAS

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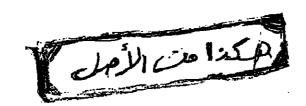
Mutt'n'Jeff

JEFF, IS IT TRUE? WELL, ER-

I FEEL /

RICH!

ARE YOU REALLY



thern offers Irish toughest budget for years

JBLIN (R) — Finance Minis-Bertie Ahern, presenting one the toughest budgets in the tory of the Irish state, has pped a one per cent levy on the laries of most wage-earners. Hoping for stability in turbuat currency markets after the valuation of the punt within the uropean Community's ex-

lange rate mechanism last onth, he warned that the situam remained difficult. "As a trading nation, and espeally one with a heavy debt indea, we are very exposed to

the prevailing winds which are try changeable right now," he lid a packed parliament. Determined to give a strong

lessage to financial markets, Mr.

Financial

CHIERCY

French Franc

Japanese Yes

-4

European Curreny Unit

He set an ambitious exchequer borrowing requirement (EBR) target of 760 million punts (\$1,140) or 2.9 per cent of gross national product.

This would keep Irish borrowing in line with the criteria set under the EC's 1991 Maastricht treaty on European political and economic union.

He promised that the one per. cent levy - seen by private economists as an income tax increase with a different name -- would be temporary. About one quarter of the workforce was exempted

Mr. Ahern also raised indirect taxes on adult clothes, shoes,

hotel rates.

Cigarettes will also cost almost five per cent more but alcoholic beverages were left alone for fear of prompting cross-border smug-

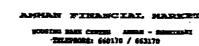
With unemployment expected to soar to another new high of 309,000 this year, Mr.

Ahern kept a tight rein on state telecommunication charges and compared with three per cent in

Mr. Ahern forecast that Ireagainst 2.75 per cent last year.

He said Ireland "bad suffered a cy turbulence in the European exchange rate mechanism.

fall, the situation remains diffi-



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STEPHEN S. LINCOLD	TPANTIC I	ı
	Volume	į
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er mang	183,235	
CHECK BYLLIGHT BYR.	259,300	
are of Joseph	34,985	
POSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT NA	62,645	
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CEPAN KUNAIT BANK	82,561	

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1-17 - 53	
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Tokyo

USD Fer STG

Eurocurrency interest Rates		Date: 25/2/1993		
Carrency	MTH	3 MITHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.00	3.18	3.43
Sterling Pound	6.19	6.12	5.62	5.63
Destsche Mark	8.56	8.31	7.81	7.12
Swiss Franc	5.43	5.37	5.13	4.87
Prench Pranc	11.62	11.62	10.75	9.50
Japanese-Yen	3.12	3.18	3.18	3.12
Enropess Currency Unit	9.62	9.50	9.18	8.56

Cairo Amman Bank

New York

1.4310 1.6255

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Clase #24/2/93

Precious i	Matais .	•	•	Date: 25	/2/1993 ·
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/G _m ,
Gold	330.10	6.35	Silver	3.58	-080

•	Dat	Date: 25/2/1993		
Carrency	Bid	Offer		
U.S. Deffar	0.6880	0.6900		
Sterling Poucid	0.9811	0.9860		
Destuche Mark	0.4227	0.4248		
Swiss Franc	0.4562	0.4585		
French Franc	0.1245	0.1251		
Japanese Yen*	0.5849	0.5878		
Dutch Guilder	0.3755	0.3774		
Swedish Krenz	0.0874	0.Q878		
ltellen Lira*	. 0.0431	0.0433		
Belgian Franc	0.02051	0.02061		
A. 100	 _	·		

Other Currencles	Dat	Date: 25/2/93		
Септенсу	·Bid	Offer		
Bahraini Dhar	1.7960	1.8160		
Lebanese Lira*	0.03825	0.04015		
Sandi Riyal	0.1830	.0.1841		
Kuwaiti Dipar	2.2230	2.2450		
Qetari Riyal	0.1864	0.1875		
Egyptian Peund	0.1950	0.2150		
Omani Riyal	1.7540	1.7740		
UAE Dirkom	0.1864	0.1875		
Greek Drachma*	0.31135	0.31545		
Cyprict Pound	1.3965	1.4115		

23/2/1993 Close	24/2/1993	Close
170.89	191.66	<u> </u>
134.26	134.14	
- 274.14	213.22	
. 268.58	271.37	
257.96	250.47	
	190. 8 9 134.26 214.14	170.89 191.66 134.26 134.14 214.14 213.22 268.58 271.37

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for speading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession and the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

1.6420/30 1.8450/60 1.5203/13 33.80/84 5.5675/725 1595/1598 117.75/80 7.7835/935

7.0000//100

6.2925/3025

Canadian dollar Dentschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

1.4265/75 ne sterling ne ounce of gold \$328.65/329.15 gling from British-ruled Northern Ireland.

the jobless with social welfare payments going up 3.5 per cent and child benefit payments rising by 27 per cent.

He warned that inflation would climb by 3.75 per cent this year cult," he added.

1992 with half the increase due to budget measures.

land's gross domestic product would rise 2.5 per cent this year severe buffeting from the curren-

•				
CAPANY'S MANY	TABLE	PROPERTY.		CLOSE INC
	VOLUME			7.00
	- TP	19322	<u> </u>	
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Postrial develophet bank	62.045			
OR HOUSENS NAME	167,050		3.750	
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SAN JOHNAN INVESTIGET BANK	328,708			
CROAM INCANIC BANK	71,744	4.700	4.700	4.600
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ELY KINT SPAINCYTHANGEL LÓS MOSTAS	158,749			
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ear ranking componention/joinam	31,630			
STREE TRESPANCE	210			
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POSALEX INSURANCE	6,006			
ORDER TRANSPORTER	200,471			
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BAR LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURINCE	27,532			
L-VIR AL-ARABI TESTRANCE	612			
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dinar Gulf Rial asplit investment	68,127		0.636	
FULL DESIGNATION & MOREOMETER PROFESSOR	12,205		1.150	
NAME IN COLUMN TAXABLE COLUMN	4,679			
ACHIDINEY BOSTP. RESETTING & MAJORISANCE	53,129			
CTTD XIDOLE TAST & COMMONE TOTALS	129,692			2.200
TRACES CORF. MATERIAL MANUSCRIPTING	19,000			
of Johns Chest Pacifiches	177,988		1.500	
OFFICE PROPERTY NUMBER :	4,623		4.700	
S MAR POTASE .	352		32.000	
OMBAN PERSOLEDA REPÜRRI	277,065		10.600	
	5,136	8.100	8.000	
OCEN TRUOSENES	31,013			
ST THUSSTRIAL COMMISCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	42,302			
of Johnson Wills	45,215			
NA PRABACENTICAL PARTACENTING	249,564		6,680	
STAN CHANGE INDUSTRIES	65,269			-5.850
OFFINE PARTY .	1,356			
MF JORDAN PIPES NAMED PACTURENCE	\$2,253	3.840		
OKOME PAPER & CARDONNO PACHORIES		. 4.500		
of PORLIC HINDS	1,320			
NA CARRICAL DETERMINE ADDRESSES		22.900		
PINTER & WEAVING	70,730	3.320	3.300	
ATTA CHOOSERIES	16,904		3.750	
NEGAN GLASS TROOSTOLES	18,460		8.756	
AF AL DAMA MANUSCRIPTION & DAVISCRIPT	329,129			
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AND ALGORITHM TEMPORATES .	617.619	13.450	13-300	13.000

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CHESTAL GRIEGAL TRADICS & STUDIOS 2015 INTEL. FOR INVESTMENT & MUCATION EASTERN INVESTMENT	102,798 04,480 50,505	2.518	0,690 2,500 3,600	2,570	
GRAID TOTAL	264,472				

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at 11:00 a.m.

Saudi banks report a lucrative 1992

MANAMA (R) — For Saudi Arabian banks, 1992 was lucrative and 1993 looks rosy as well. With the earnings reporting

season nearly over, not one bank showed a loss last year and a majority displayed carnings increases of 20 per cent or more.

The Saudi economy galloped out of the uncertainties of the Gulf war in 1991 like a cooped-up stallion and has not looked back. The banks profited very nicely from the boom.

The economy is doing very well," said Henry Azzam, chief economist for National Commercial Bank

An active economy has meant more loans, more financing of Saudi Arabia's fast-rising imports, more fees — and fewer investments going belly-up as in the mid to late-1980s.

Many banks also profited from the fall in international interest rates, which gave them a capital gain on their bonds and other securities and which also encour-

And several have benefited from huge new share flotations. These have given them new cash to invest immediately, enabled those with troubled loan portfolios finally to make adequate provisions and permitted aggressive new loan expansion.

The challenge will be for these banks to keep up earnings per share - and not just earnings but most economists feel that with the opportunities for expansion that will be possible.

The most profitable of the 10 banks reporting results so far two have not - is Saudi American Bank (SAMBA) 30 per cent owned by Citicorp.

Its profit jumped 21 per cent in 1992 to 910 million riyals. That's \$243 million — compared with the \$280 million that the entire Citicorp network made in the

fourth quarter last year.
"What says it all is SAMBA's results," an analyst said. "If you give good service and a good product, you can make major

Riyad Bank's profit jumped by 88 per cent to 745 million (\$199 million) from an adjusted 1991 profit figure. Because of a share flotation, earnings per share grew by "only" 13 per cent, a figure nonetheless respectable at a time when the global economy was not booming.

National Commercial Bank. the largest Saudi bank in terms of assets, has not published results since 1989 because of, bankers believe, a large portfolio of nonperforming loans. Yet despite its troubles over alleged involvement in the BCCI scandal, bank

> The only other bank not to publish results is Bank Al Jazira. probably the smallest. After showing a loss in 1990 it broke even in 1991 and is projecting a

officials say it continues to do

profit for 1992. Economists were unwilling to predict whether the banks would be able to maintain the same percentage increases in their profits this year, but they believe profits will rise in most cases nonetheless.

The continued decline in interest rates so far this year has translated into more capital gains for some — though this may be counteracted in the rest of the year by lower returns for their investments once the decline

A potential storm cloud on the horizon is if Iraq returns to the oil market, forcing Saudi Arabia to scale back from its current eight million barrels per day of crude

Saudi Arabia can borrow further to make up for shortfalls, but if it cuts back on actual government spending the economy and the banks will feel it.

But at the mean time, Saudi Arabia is simply a very wealthy country. One economist estimates the average disposable in-come per Saudi family to be \$147,000 - all tax-free.

"I'm bullish on 1993," an eco-

organisation said the Clinton plan

course for the future." adding the

economy stimulus plan would

would build long-term economic

recovery, aided by reductions in

his short-term stimulus program-

me, which would spend about \$30

billion, Mr. Clinton said he would

"I think the stimulus is impor-

port it." Mr. Clinton said. Action

on the stimulus has now been

enacts spending cuts and tax in-

And in a reference to critics of

Mr. Clinton insisted his plan

provide necessary jobs.

long-term interest rates.

not abandon it.

sets the country on the right

plan, and we support them." Mr. the AFL-CiO union umbrella

cutting the budget deficit was tant, and i will continue to sup-

plan's spending cuts and tax hikes scheduled for after Congress

to raise retirement age

SINGAPORE (AP) - Worried that its booming economy might be undermined by a chronic labour shortage, the government introduced legislation Friday to raise the retirement age from 55

The retirement age bill was presented in parliament by labour Minister Lee Boon Yang after years of unsuccessful efforts to persuade employers to raise the retirement age voluntarily.

When enacted — the ruling People's Action Party holds an overwhelming parliamentary majority — the bill also will bar companies from firing older workers solely because of their

Most firms covered by trade union contracts complied with official wishes, first expressed in 1984. The National Trades Union Congress is closely linked to the government and is headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ong Teng

But most non-unionised companies resisted, saying they were concerned they might be burdened by higher costs and disputes as older workers were reassigned to less taxing posts.
Only about 215,000 of the 1.5

million Singapore work force belong to unions. Workers will still be retire at 60 or earlier, but it will become compulsory for em-

plovers to retain those able and willing to stay on the job after 55. By the year 2000, there will be about 500,000 people in Singa-pore older than 55 — roughly one for every four workers.
Officials stirred heated debate

in making a political issue of the relatively young age at which Singaporeans traditionally retired and withdrew savings from the Central Provident Fund (CPF), the basic pension for most peo-

Stung by the criticism, the gov-ernment had to promise that workers will still be able to collect CPF pensions upon reaching 55.

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Singapore Business, labour applaud Clinton's economic plan

A note of scepticism was

sounded by Ford Motor Co. Chairman Harold Poling on the

tax increases, but otherwise Mir.

Poling said there is widespread

He expressed concern that the

tax increases could limit the re-

covery and said "it is essential

that spending cuts be approved at

the same time as the tax program-

Mr. Clinton told them that

crucial to long-term economic

health and disagreed that the

would set the economy back.

"I am convinced that is wrong creases,

support for a change.

WASHINGTON (R) - Presi- energy and an increased corpo- new because of the vast accumudent Bill Clinton drummed up rate income tax are essential to lated debt." Mr. Clinton said, support for his economic plan the success of the president's Lane Kirkland, president of support for his economic plan Thursday, picking up strong en-dorsements from leaders of busi-

ness and labour unions. The president, addressing two dozen business executives and labour officials, promoted his proposals to cut the federal deficit by \$325 billion over four years through spending cuts and tax increases, combined with a fiscal stimulus package.

"I am very encouraged by the business-labour partnership that we see manifested here today," Mr. Clinton said. The meeting was one of a series

Mr. Clinton and his cabinet have held to build support and exert pressure on the U.S. congress to approve the plan, which opposition Republicans say is heavy on tax raises and light on spending

In the meeting Thursday in the old executive office building adjacent to the White House, Mr. Clinton played the role of sales-man, pitching his plan to the business executives and union leaders.

"We support the president's deficit reduction package as it now stands," said August Busch, chairman of Anheuser-Busch Inc. Breweries. He praised "Clinton's bold approach to reduce the deficit through spending cuts and higher taxes equitably levied."

features of the package is a broad-based energy tax tied to the British Thermal Unit (BTUS) or heat content of fuels which was endorsed by Lod Cook. chairman of Atlantic Richfield Co., a major oil company.

"No one wants to pay more taxes," he told Mr. Clinton. "But it is clear that we must begin paying for today's needs today and quit borrowing against the

The U.S. government's total borrowings, which are approaching \$4 trillion, drain government resources as interest on the debt mounts. "The concept of a BTU tax on

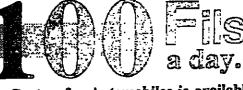
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PLAZA

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Starring: Michael Dougla

and Sharol Stone

hows: 12:30, 3:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Plays continue daily at 9:00 p.m. except Saturdays and Sundays

Happy Feast

Yeltsin urged to take offensive against conservative parliament

MOSCOW (R) - President Boris Yeltsin came under growing pressuure from allies Friday to take the offensive against Russia's conservative parliament as a deadline for a power-sharing deal with the legislature passed.

The editor of one major liberal newspaper said Mr. Yeltsin should press for elections to break the deadlock.

"Yeltsin, in whom we invested such hopes, is not in control of events. We see no understanding for the state of affairs and no considered strategy," Vitaly Tretyakov, chief editor of Nezavisimaya Gazeta newspaper,

wrote in a commentary.

At Kremlin talks on Feb. 16. Mr. Yeltsin and parliamentary chief Ruslan Khasbulatov formed a commission to draft a constitutional settlement within 10 days. Mr. Yeltsin said if the commission succeeded, he was ready to drop the referendum idea.

Since then, there has been no progress and parliament has snubbed Mr. Yeltsin's proposals. First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko was quoted by ITAR-TASS News Agency as saying Mr. Yeltsin must go ahead with a planned constitutional referendum if parliament and pres-

"All power in the country has passed into the hands of the Congress of People's Deputies (the supreme legislature)," Mr. Shumeiko said. "I no longer belive a compromise is possible with parliamentary deputies."
Close aide to Mr. Yeltsin and

idency failed to reach an agree-

media chief Mikhail Poltoranin said there was no doubt the referendum would go ahead and

peaceful settlement.

"The legislature cannot ride like a steamroller over Russian

statehood." he said. Critics, including Mr. Khasbulatov, insist the referendum, far from sorting out the division of power between the Congress and the president, would only fan

political conflict in Russia. A presidential spokesman said Friday the passing of the deadline did not mean the end of all hopes for compromise.

"The important thing is thatworking contacts take place every day. We'll see what comes, but the talks are hard.'

Mr. Khasbulatov, a man with little popular support but strong influence in provincial power structures, has curbed Mr. Yeltsin's executive powers to the point where one presidential aide compared him recently with Bri-tain's Queen Elizabeth.

The comment was exaggerated, but Mr. Yeltsin faces serious problems in resisting attempts by central and regiona legislatures to claw back powers to stop his radical reforms laying

waste to Russia. Mr. Yeltsin was directly elected to the newly-created presidency in June 1991 without clearly-defined executive powers. Russia has failed so far to adopt a post-Communist constitution setting out the roles of legislature,

executive and judiciary.

The legislature firmly controls the budget, the Central Bank, the appointment of several key security ministries and admir state property through parliamentary agencies.

Congress could extend its pow-

described it as the last chance of a ers as the supreme organ of state power at the next session by voting to make government subordinate directly to parliament,

which was elected in 1990. It could also vote to call off the April referendum, even if no powersharing agreement is reached by the commission. The smaller standing parlia-

ment meets next week to set a date for the Congress, which is expected to meet in early March. Mr. Tretyakov, editor of Nezavisimaya Gazeta newspaper, sug-gested a series of possible out-

comes of the present struggle, including an effective coup by either of the two sides. The most likely outcome, however, was a continuation of the present struggle, leaving a weakened and divided administration, unable to cope with a serious crisis such as hyperinfla-

He called for fresh elections in

April of May.
"The current president would have a good chance of winning. His charisma has far from faded completely. Ruslan Khasbulatov, if anyone is afraid of him, has no

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said in an article published Friday that he was worried by a tendency in the West to isolate his country and warned that this would strengthen the hand of national-

"I am worried by how quickly a school of thought has sprung up in the West which maintains that it is better to have dealings with a weakened Russia, left alone with its troubles," he wrote in the NATO Review, an official

"This selling short of a power which is historically destined to be great is not only unrealistic but dangerous, because it kindles nationalism and confrontational attitudes both in Russia and throughout the world," Mr. Kozyrev wrote.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his reformers are locked in a battle for power with the country's parliament, a struggle which the West is worried could

bring an end to reforms.

Mr. Kozyrev appealed for closer ties with NATO and cooperation through institutions like the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to keep nationalism under con-

"If ...we began to be seen in Western capitals as something 'unnecessary' or 'dangerous', this would only encourage our 'national patriots' to increase their attacks on current Russian policy and would sustain their chauvinist desires to close off

Russia," Mr. Kozyrev wrote. Mr. Kozyrev shocked the world last December when he gave a speech at a European security conference that appeared to portray a new hardline Russian

foreign policy.

He later withdrew the remarks. saying that he wanted to show what could happen if the forces of reform failed.

This course of events, which would certainly not be in our common interests, must not be allowed to come about and the strategy of partnership (with the West) must serve to guarantee this," Mr. Kozyrev wrote in the article.



SOUP KITCHEN: Bosnians line up at a so kitchen in the centre of Sarajevo. U.S. President Bill Clinton proposed a food airdrop into Bosnia-

Herzegovina with control of the operation retained by the United Nations (AFP photo)

N. Korea rejects new IAEA demands

VIENNA (R) - North Korea Friday rejected fresh demands by the United Nations nuclear watchdog to open up two of its military sites for inspection, branding the move a serious violation of its sovereignty.

North Korean delegates who attended talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board of governors in Vienna said the body was openly siding with Pyongyang's adversaries and was in danger of losing its impar-

tiality.

"That is why our country is being forced ...to adopt self-defensive measures to safeguard our sovereignty," the North Korean delegation said in a statement. The statement did not specify what measures Pyongyang would

The IAEA board of governors, which includes representatives from35 members states, Thursday gave North Korea one month to comply with its demands to allow inspectors to visit two sites at Youghyon believed to be secret nuclear installations.

The IAEA resolution said the board would meet again no later than March 25 to consider North Korea's response. If Pyongyang still refused, the board would consider what it called "further

"Our country will in no way

accept this resolution which demands special inspections of two military sites which have nothing to do with nuclear activities," the North Korean delegates said.

North Korea, a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. also agreed last year to sign a "safeguards agreement" which permits inspectors to ensure nucear equipment and materials are used exclusively for peaceful pur-

"The adoption of this unjust resolution is a flagrant violation of our country's sovereignty and creates serious difficulties in complying with the safeguards agreement," they added.

Kim names academics to Seoul cabinet the end of the century and In the past, one woman has

offered to meet North Korea's ageing Stalinist leader Kim Il-

Sung, to plot a course towards

Relations between the two

Koreas have frozen over a bitter

dispute over the North's sus-

pected development of nuclear

In a break with the past, Mr.

Kim and Prime Minister Hwang

SEOUL (Agencies) - South Korean President Kim Young-Sam named a completely new cabinet Friday, appointing academics to head his foreign and unification policy teams and pragmatists to zckle economic ills.

Sworn in Thursday as the first civilian head of state for more than three decades, Mr. Kim retained no incumbent ministers in his 24-member cabinet. President Kim has worked

hard to find new and reformoriented figures who can faithfully carry out his pledges to build a new Korea," a spokesman for Mr. Kim said. Han Sung-Joo, political science University for Foreign Studies, professor at Korea University, will replace ex-General Lee

will replace Lee Sang-Ock as foreign minister and Han Wan-Sang, professor of political science at Seoul National University, will take over from Choi Young-Choul as unification minister.

i the selec-Political : tion of Han. .gnalled a cabinet posts Friday to show his change in policy towards North Korea, adding that the new unification minister w an advocate of a more flexible and openminded attitude towards the isolated Communist state.

Mr. Kim, 65, predicted Thurs-

In-Sung, who was named Mon-day, also picked an academic to head the powerful internal security agency, a post that normally went to an army general. Kim Deok, dean of Hankook Hyun-Woo as the h

Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), long accused of torturing political dissidents and fabricating Communist charges. President Kim appointed a re-

weapons.

cord number of three women to

"We hope the appointment of three women ministers will contribute to boosting women's rights," said Kim Kyung O, leader of the National Federation of usually been appointed to the 24-member cabinet, as the second state minister for political affairs, specialising in issues pertaining to women, children and the elderly. Mr. Kim appointed a woman

again to that post, Kwon Young Ja. 56. Ms. Kwon currently serves as head of the government supported Korean Women's Development Institute and was formerly an outspoken journalist, active in women's social welfare

But Mr. Kim's selection of two other women to the cabinet came as a surprise.

Hwang San-Sung, 49, a lawyer, mer judge, was named minister of the environment. She has been an advocate of the equal rights movement in Korea.

Park Yang-Sil, 58, an obstetrician, was named minister for health and social affairs.

Dr. Park has led a movement to help Vietnamese children fathered by South Korean soldiers during the war in Indochina. She also has been active in antinuclear and equal rights movements as the head of the Association of Korean Women Doctors.

Women's Groups. day unification of Korea before Haitian bishop beaten after mass

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) - A prominent Haitian bishop was beaten and kicked Thursday after a funeral mass for victims of a ferry boat disaster turned into the largest demonstration for President Jean-Bertrand Aristide since his overthrow in a bloody

"Had we not been there, Bishop (Willy) Romelus might have been killed," said Michael Moller, coordinator of a joint

U.N.-Organisation of American States mission that arrived in Haiti 11 days ago to monitor

human rights.
Bishop Romelus, a critic of the military- backed government. was thrown to the ground, pummelled and kicked when he left the Port-Au-Prince cathedral after delivering the eulogy. An aide to the bishop said some of the

assailants were armed.

broken, his purple clerical sash ripped and he was repeatedly punched in the face, according to diplomat who witnessed the

Diplomats and members of the U.N. team jumped between the churchman and his attackers, and diplomats whisked him off in a limousine, first to an unidentified embassy and then to a house used Bishop Romelus's glasses were to shelter church figures.

German Reichstag fire still controversial 60 years later

BONN (R) — Sixty years on, historians still argue over who started the fire that gutted Germany's Reichstag parliament building and gave the Nazis the pretext to crack down on opponents.

The fire destroyed the plenary hall on Feb. 27, 1933 - barely a month after Adolf Hitler came to Dutch Communist Marinus

Van Der Lubbe, detained in the burning building, was blamed for the blaze. "Even today it is being dis-

puted whether the fire was an act of a loner or if it was staged by the Nazis," the weekly Die Woche wrote in one of several re-examinations of the incident. The Reichstag, built 100 years ago by Otto Von Bismarck, Germany's first chancellor, is in the

limelight again after German unification in 1990. The neo-classical building, bombed during World War II, was just on the western side of the Communist wall that cut Ber-

lin in two for almost three decades. With Berlin restored as capital of Germany, the Bonn parlia-ment will move into the Reich-

stag within 10 years and an architect's contest for its renovation is drawing to a close. The 24-year-old Van Der Lubbe, who told police he set the Reichstag ablaze to make workers "fight for freedom", was found guilty of arson and guillotined 11 months after the fire. Most historians today believe he acted alone, although Hitler's court suggested he had unknown

But some insist the fire was the troyed. work of the Nazis, who needed a provocation to pass the enabling act, which wiped out democratic rights and led to the first roundup of political opponents for the

Communist partners.

concentration camps.
Walther Hofer, retired director of the University of Bern's Institute of History, said the arrest of thousands of opponents within hours of the fire indicated careful

Mr. Hofer, co-publisher of a book about the fire, said the fact the court had to acquit four Communist co-defendants because they had perfect alibis showed the Nazis made up the charges.

not possibly have ignited the wood-panelled plenary hall in the limited time Van Der Lubbe had. to turn a plenary hall of 11,000

within a few minutes with the

equipment at hand," he told Die Woche.

He said technical investigations in 1970 had shown one man could "It would have been impossible cubic metres into a flaming sea

U.S. historian William Shiner author of The Rise And Fall Of The Third Reich, believed the Nazis had learned of Van Der Lubbe's arson plans from his barroom boasting about his revolutionary exploits and doused the plenary hall in advance to ensure it was completely des-

"The coincidence that the Nazis had found a demented Communist arsonist who was out to do exactly what they themselves had determined to do seems incredible but is nevertheless supported by the evidence," he wrote.

Court records quote Van Der Lubbe as saying he ignited the fire with matches and charcoal fire starters but neither the Nazis nor their opponents supported this notion.

"The Communists were convinced the Nazis had set the fire," German historian Fritz Tobias. who believes Van Der Lubbe acted alone, told Die Woche.

"Experience shows that lone perpetrators in sensational attacks are always regarded with suspicion," he said. "People find it hard to accept that a man without a name is capable of interfering with big politics at his own initiative and changing the course of history."

Madonna pictures bring slap on wrist

TOKYO (R) - A Japanese firm got off with a light fine Friday for defying local obscenity laws by not retouching nude pictures in Madonna's book Sex. Tokyo customs officials ordered Toppan Printing Co Ltd to pay a fine of almost 100,000 yen (\$850) for skirting Japanese censors and printing the original photographs in the Japanese-language version of the book. The local edition of Madonna's coffee-table shocker, complete with a CD, retails for 6,000 yen (\$50). The first batch of 150,000 copies sold out last Dec. I when it reached Japanese bookstores. "We accept the decision and promise to be more careful in the future," a Toppan Company official said. Toppan imported negatives of the sexually explicit, sado-masochistic photographs that fill Sex without filing a required report to customs authorities. In October, customs ofnicials at Tokyo's Narita Airport held up imports of the American edition of Sex to allowgovernment censors to scratch out all glimpses of pubic hair. Japan's bizarre censorship laws prohibit pictures showing pubic hair and genitalia but place no restraints on graphic scenes of sexual violence, including child rape and bestiality. Over the past year, authorities have begun to bow to demands from publishers and artists to permit the depiction of pubic hair, particularly when it affects artistic expression.

Number of Japan gangsters falls after new curbs

TOKYO (R) — Total membership of Japan's crime syndicates fell slightly and year after tough new curbs on their activities, the national police agency said. The number of "yakuza" gangsters fell by 7,200 to 56,600 at the end of last year, an agency spokesman said. The anti-orgamised crime law, passed last March, gave police new powers to crack down on activities such as extortion. Police previously lacked the power to rein in gangsters without evidence that they had used violence to intimidate victims. Gang leaders have chalhearings, arguing that their groups are traditional; organisations dating back hundreds of years. The spokesman said membership of the three largest syndi-cates increased slightly at the expense of smaller groups last

Canada reinstates Victoria Cross for heroism

OTTAWA (R) — Canada will reinstate the Victoria Cross as its highest military decoration, ending a long campaign by Canadian soldiers and veterans of two world wars, the prime minister's office said. The Victoria Cross, awarded for exceptional heroism, was first instituted by Queen Victoria during the Crimean War over a century ago. Ninety-three Canadians received the V.C., the last one awarded posthumously to pilot Robert Gray for an attack on a Japanese destroyer in the last days of the World War II. But Canada dropped the medal in 1972 when it created its own military bravery medals as a further step by the former colony to cut links with Britain. The Canadian Victoria Cross, which has been approved by Queen Elizabeth II, will be awarded for "conspicuous bravery...in the presence of the enemy" and Canadian troops serving as United Nations peacekeepers will be eligible. The campaign to get the medal reinstated was boosted by support from Major-General Lewis MacKenzie, Canada's bestknown soldier. He led Canadian peacekeepers who secured Sarajevo Airport last year.

Girl can 'divorce' mother - U.K. court

LEEDS, England (R) — A 12year-old girl who sought to "divorce" her mother may stay with her foster family, an English High Court judge has ruled. Lawyers said the girl, who cannot be named, could be the youngest child in Britain to make use of a law passed in 1989 allowing her to seek another home. The case attracted attention last year when the girl, then aged 11, tried to legally "divorce" her mother. Proceedings were later dropped when lawyers acting for mother and daughter agreed that local authorities should take over the case. On Tuesday, a High Court judge in the northern English town of Leeds ruled the girl could stay with foster parents who had taken care of her from the age of three months until she returned to her mother at the age of eight.

PAC to take tough line in talks with Pretoria

IOHANNESBURG (R) - The through. radical black Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) said Friday it would never accede to government demands that its armed wing suspend the struggle against white

rule in South Africa. "The government wants APLA to go on a 'holiday,' that is not going to happen," said PAC Western Cape official Anda Ntsodo, referring to what he said was the first item on the government's agenda at forthcoming talks with the black radical group.

Monday's discussions, in the Botswana capital Gaborone, are the first since President F.W. De Klerk called off talks with the PAC after its military wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army, killed several whites in

attacks late last year. Asked to comment on Mr. Ntsodo's remarks, Law and Order Ministry spokesman Craig Kotze described the Gaborone discussions as a bid by the goverament to get rid of obstacles to planned multi-party talks leading to South Africa's first non-racial

elections.

"But we cannot have constitutional negotiations with them until progress is made on APLA's acts of terror," he said.

Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel, who will lead the government team at the Gaborone meeting, has said the talks would focus on violence.

The PAC, whose power base is mainly among radicalised black youth, believes it will win South Africa's first non-race elections. but political observers consider it a marginal party with a small but

vociferous following.
The PAC said earlier this week the group would be represented at the talks by its Secretary General Benny Alexander and members of APLA's high command, which fights under the slogan: "One settler, one bullet." Mr. Ntsodo told Reuters the

PAC would take part in both the planning conference and multiparty talks but insisted it would not make any major concessions. He said that if an interim government came to power in South Africa following the elections, expected to be held within the

Stressing he did not want to pre-empt the meeting, Mr. Kotze refused to say whether the government was hopeful of a break- politically.

U.S. prosecutor: Police delayed taking King for treatment

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Two policemen taking an injured Robney King from one hospital to another detoured for nearly two hours, stopping at their station to show the beating victim to colleagues, a prosecutor said.

In an opening statement in a crowded courtroom. Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Clymer also accused the two defendants of trying to convince medical personnel at both hospitals that Mr. King was under the influence of the hallucinogen PCP when there was no such evidence. The surprise allegations about

officers Laurence Powell and Timothy Wind came as the federal government launched its effort to do what state prosecutors could not - win convictions in the videotaped beating of the biack motorist.

The defence began its opening statements with the same strategy that proved successful before, portraying the officers' actions as appropriate and within police department guidelines.

"The conduct that was engaged in was not illegal, but was directly in response to the conduct of Mr. ' said Ira Salzman, attorney King," said Ira Salzman for Sgt. Stacey Koon.

Mr. Powell's lawyer, Michael Stone, stressed that the officers believed Mr. King, a large man, was "a duster," or a person on "You will hear that King had

the classic symptoms of a duster,"

he told Jurors, saying the motorist

was "bathed in sweat," glassy eyed and seemed to have "superhuman strength." He also disclosed that the defence will call three state trial, and Mr. Braun said a witnesses who testified for the prosecution in the earlier trial: "California Highway Patrol

next 12 months, the PAC would do all it could to undermine it Allen, who said Mr. King's behaviour that night scared him.

deadly mayhem in Los Angeles, and the federal trial has had an undertone of racial tension since iury selection began. The multiracial jury listened raptly, sometimes leaning for-ward in their seats, as Mr. Clymer outlined the case and played for them a newly enhanced version of

The acquittals of Mr. Powell,

Mr. Wind, Sgt. Koon and

another white officer on most

state charges ignited three days of

the videotape shot by an amateur cameraman. Mr. Clymer said he would prove that Mr. Powell and Mr. Wind, along with officer Theodore Briseno and their supervisor, Sgt. Koon, violated Mr. King's civil rights. He said the three officers brutally clubbed, kicked and stomped the black motorist who "was not a threat." and Set. Koon did nothing to stop

Mr. Briseno's lawyer minimised his client's role in the beating, saying a scene in which prosecutors say Mr. Briseno stomped on Mr. King's neck with heavy boots was just a gentle effort to keep Mr. King from rising and drawing more baton

Attorney Harland Braun also told the jury that Mr. Briseno's boots only looked heavy. Holding up a boot, he said, "It's very thin It's almost like a ballet slipper. It wasn't used as a defensive weapon.

It was clear that Mr. Briseno will not testify against his codefendants as he did in the scene in which Mr. Briseno reaches out to stop Mr. Powell's baton merely shows "a remarkofficers Melanie and Tim Singer able disagreement between two and Mr. King's passenger, Bryant officers."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Troops desert at Russian launch site

MOSCOW (R) - About 20 Russian soldiers at the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan deserted last week in protest over working conditions at the launch-site for Russia's giant proton rocket, ITAR-TASS News Agency said Friday. The incident came a year after construction units at Baikonur mutinied over living conditions, burning down buildings and ransacking stores.

Four people were killed in the riots. TASS quoted the local newspaper Express-K as saying the deserters, who complained they were being forced to work too hard to make up for undermanning, drove off in a stolen truck. A spokesman for the Russian army's space forces said the soldiers had been detained. but he gave no details of the incident.

Tank explodes, policeman shot in England

WARRINGTON, England (R) — Police called in anti-terrorist units and launched a manhunt Friday after a policeman was shot, a car hijacked and a gas storage tank blown up in a series of violent incidents in northern England. The cause of the blast was not known but a spokesman for British gas said it was possible an explosive device had been used. Police in Warrington, near Manchester, were trying to determine if the incidents were related. They said they were working with Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist unit, but declined to say whether they suspected the Irish Republican Army, which is fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland. "You can draw your own conclusions," said one police official. The IRA has launched a series of bomb attacks in British cities, including Manchester, in recent months. Police said they were searching for an armed man who hijacked a car and was believed to have helped two others shoot and injure a policeman when he stopped a van near Warrington town centre

about midnight. The three men escaped. U.S. police raid suicide doctor's home

ROYAL OAK, Michigan (R) — Three hours after Michigan Governor John Engler signed a law making assisted suicide a felony, police armed with search warrants raided the home of suicide doctor Jack Kevorkian and that of a friend who helped him. A spokesman for the Royal Oak Police Department declined to comment on why investigators were searching Dr. Kevorkian's home. Local television reports said, however, police were looking for evidence that one of Dr. Kevorkian's 15 suicides changed his mind minutes before the retired pathologist, dubbed "Dr. Death," helped him take his life. Police were also searching the home of Dr. Kevorkian's friend in Waterford township, where former security guard Hugh Gale took his life earlier this month with Dr. Kevorkian's help. A spokeswoman for an anti-euthanasia group called the Advocates for Life Ministries. however, said the organisation has evidence proving Mr. Gale did not want to commit suicide.

Khmer Rouge steal more U.N. vehicles

PHNOM PENH (AP) - The Khmer Rouge stole two U.N. vehicles and two radios from four U.N. personnel at gunpoint, after luring them into guerrilla territory for a prearranged meeting, a U.N. spokesman said Friday. Thursday's theft was the second Khmer Rouge guerrillas in less than a week. U.N. officials said Tuesday that the Khmer Rouge hit an American U.N. peacekeeper while stealing his vehicle in the central province of Kompone Thom last weekend. "There is a disturbing pattern in all these incidents," spokesman Eric Falt said. "It is unacceptable that anybody, let alone a faction that signed the Paris peace accords, would shamelessly exert undue pressure on U.N. personnel through armed threats." Khmer Rouge official Meas

Chey said he knew nothing about the incident. All official candidates elected in Cuba polls

HAVANA (R) - All 589 official candidates, including President Fidel Castro, were elected to form Cuba's next National Assembly in Wednesday's one-party general elections on the island, the National Electoral Commission said Thursday. While the polls were the first direct national elections on the Caribbean island in more than 30 years of Communist rule, they had effered no opposition or alternative choices to the ruling Communist Party and official candidate lists. Smooth election of the 589 parliamentary candidates had been widely expected following an intense official propaganda campaign by the Communist authorities calling on voters to massively back official candidate lists.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday Cuba's parliamentary elections were neither free nor fair. "Regrettably, yesterday's elections were not an exercise in democracy," the department said in a statement. "Truly free and fair elections have never been held under Cuba's current government." Asked about a state-ment by Cuban President Fidel Castro that he might step down in a few years, State Department spokesman Joseph Synder said, "We think Cuba would be served better by another leader than Fidel Castro."